

Who we are...

CARE is a grassroots group founded by residents and approved by the Crownridge Board and HOA, to provide neighbors with **Curb Appeal Resources and Education (CARE)**.

This idea evolved from a discussion at the annual Crownridge membership meeting in March. CARE desires to provide residents information to update, restore and maintain their home lawn and gardens in order to maximize property values and maintain an aesthetically pleasing neighborhood.

CARE seeks to not only share gardening passion with neighbors, but also desires to create a community network to further build pride in ownership of homes and neighborhood.

CARE members Jan Craven, BJ Davis, Heidi Kabanek and Sheri Zorrilla hope to build on this interest that was expressed by other residents at the meeting. Jan and BJ are Master Gardeners, while Heidi and Sheri are "trial-by-error" gardeners with a passion for gardening.

As interest grows, CARE will host neighborhood meetings to share ideas, trade plants and get to know neighbors. Timely newsletters on landscaping issues, available resources and tips for maximizing your property's curb appeal will also be sent out via the Crownridge e-blast. If you are interested in additional information, contact Heidi Kabanek at HMKabanek@aol.com or Sheri Zorrilla at sszorrilla@satx.rr.com.

Plant of the Month



Texas Bluebonnets

The state flower of Texas!

Exposure: Full sun

Size: Low growing.

Height 1 foot tall, 1 foot wide

Bloom Time: March to May

Plant Time: Oct. 1- Dec. 1

For maximum spring time show, plant seeds in the fall. Just spread over dirt area and rake gently. Be careful not to water too often.

www.texassuperstar.com

Wild for Wildflowers

- **Plant Seeds Now for a Spring Show**

Fall is definitely the time to start thinking about wildflowers. Even though they don't pop up until spring, fall is actually the best time to sow them here in San Antonio. Many wildflowers will germinate very quickly in the fall and may be able to establish healthy roots before they go dormant in the winter. Those that don't germinate right away will remain dormant until spring weather begins. Wildflower seed suppliers can provide seed mixtures consisting of a number of different species. You have the option of such a mixture or obtaining the species of your choice and making a mixture or planting your selections individually. Check to see if the particular wildflowers of your choice are sun-loving or more suited to part shade.

- **How do I sow the seeds?**

To get the most bloom for your buck, plant wildflower seeds using the following method: find a spot in your yard that drains very well and remove any weeds or unwanted plants. Prepare the area by raking or lightly tilling the surface of the soil to a maximum of 1 inch deep. Since many of the wildflowers are very small, a great way to spread them is by mixing 1 part seed with four parts sand or potting soil. After broadcasting the mixture evenly over the prepared area, walk across it to press seeds into the ground. It's OK if some seeds are still visible.

- **Do I need to water?**

Keep the area moist for at least four weeks with light and frequent applications of water, while seedlings establish. Once seedlings are about 2 inches high, reduce watering gradually. Then water only when the plants look stressed.

Information obtained from article written by staff at Schulz Nursery.

Create an Outdoor Room in Your Backyard

This is the perfect Chamber of Commerce weather. Create an outdoor living space with just a little work and money. Find a shady spot or create shade with a large umbrella. Add bags of gravel for foundation or paving stones and/or mark the area with some plants or pots of flowers. Add a few lawn chairs or hammock; perhaps a little outdoor table between the chairs. Hang a wind chime for soothing sounds. Now, relax with a good book, a beverage of choice. Or even better, invite your neighbors over to enjoy with you!

Keep your face to the sun and you will not feel the shadows.....Helen Keller