

## March 22nd Newsletter

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### WE ARE EXCITED TO INTRODUCE TO YOU A FEW OF OUR GOOD FRIENDS

They would rarely disappoint you. They will likely exceed your expectations. They are perfect house guests with few demands. They only attract your attention when they are at their best and often smile their heads off when you need a smile the most. They all reflect well on you, your character and your reputation. They will every last one of them leave us and find a new home. Together they will make the world a little bit better for all of mankind. All that remains to be seen is who will take them home. Our good friends in the order presented.

Flowering Senna, Candlestick Cassia, Lindheimer's Senna, Bamboo Muhly, Inland Sea Oats, Hybrid Gulf Muhly, Deer Muhly, Feather Grass, Painted Petals, Hinckley's Columbine

All 10 of our good green friends have been packaged in "Jumbo Six Pacs" priced at \$6 for 6 plants and are being offered for the first time in this nifty thrifty way to make themselves totally irresistible. The first two Senna, Flowering and Candlestick, will both grow to fill out and be sold as 5 gallon trees by later this Summer and will sell for \$24 each or more. All of the grasses will make full size 5 gallon pots by later this summer and will sell for \$16.50 or more. Do the math and a six pack of trees for \$6 planted now will be worth \$144 before Thanksgiving. Even better, think green like us and imagine the impact on our world that 10,000 new Senna trees and 25,000 new clump grasses will have.

### "A Place Where Both People and Plants Grow"

#### Flowering Senna

*Cassia corymbosa*  
 Showy yellow flowers from mid summer to fall. Loves xeric conditions. Grows to 6' with a lollipop shaped canopy and fills a 5 gallon pot the first year from seed. A hardy perennial tree that after a hard freeze re-leaves to be evergreen. An easy to grow specimen for small gardens and spaces. This is a favorite small flowering tree that deserves to be in every landscape. Cut back it will assume the form of a shrub or a multi-trunk tree. Creatively you have a hedge or screen to 12' its mature height.

#### Candlestick Cassia

*Cassia alata*  
 Long a favorite in subtropical areas where it is a fast growing perennial tree. Bright yellow tall spike shaped blooms are prolific throughout the hot summer months till frost. Full baking sun is preferred. Tall yellow spikes do bring to mind candlesticks. Hardiness is good in all but our coldest of Winters when it will freeze to the ground. Mass planted, Candlestick Cassia is outlandishly showy. With enough of these trees you will have a car stopping topical paradise in your front yard!

#### Lindheimer's Senna

*Cassia lindheimeri*  
 This Proud To Be A Texas Native Cassia is most often seen on disturbed soils. (i.e. after man has trashed the landscape.) When Lindheimer's Senna is at its best in Fall, it's awesome. This brighten up your day yellow perennial flower should line every country driveway. Still proven totally deer resistant for us. Very easy to grow. AKA Velvet Leaf Senna.

#### Bamboo Muhly

*Muhlenbergia dumosa*  
 Bamboo Muhly has the graceful visual characteristics of bamboo but is strictly a clump grass. (NOT INVASIVE) A "Winter Grass" that should not be cut back as it greens up and produces seed in March. With a mature size of 5' high and wide, it can be used as a hedge or an accent. Amazingly this "desert dweller" grows in the full shade of Cedar trees where almost nothing else will! One of our favorite plants.

#### Inland Sea Oats

*Chasmanthium latifolium*  
 In the Fall, the big drooping seed heads and wide leaves turn a warm ivory, somewhere between gold and white. Very showy when mass planted or as a border. An excellent soil stabilizer and habitat restoration plant that thrives in moist shade. Full Summer sun and dry soils will "cook it's goose" into dormancy until wetter times. Grows in Full Shade where others fail.

#### Hybrid Gulf Muhly

*Muhlenbergia capillaris* X  
 Not the pure bred "Gulf Muhly" found around Houston. This form has been selected for it's "Best Of Show" hands down spectacular performance. Expect large plants to 3' tall and dark purple blooms in Fall that can last for weeks instead of days. This for many of us is the showiest grass of them all. It'll make you take another look at Gulf Muhly if you've been disappointed in the past.

#### Deer Muhly

*Muhlenbergia rigens*  
 Deer Muhly in many ways resembles Lindheimer Muhly. Noticeably the leaf is flat versus the center creased leaf of Lindheimer Muhly. Visually powerful with vertical dark green foliage to 4' plus seed spikes in Fall well above that. It takes a good eye for composition to take advantage of the power big grasses have in the landscape. They make good anchors and can give balance to large beds.

#### Feather Grass

*Stipa tenuissima*  
 Feather Grass has reached the height of popularity in 2007. Central Texas alone will add several hundred thousand plants to it's landscapes this year. It's small size is easy to design with and it's love and need for hot dry conditions make it perfect for water conservation. (This is the one grass that's sensitive to over watering. If in question, don't even think about it.) It's persistent late Spring wind blown feathery plumes add a unique graceful touch.

#### Painted Petals

*Lapeirousia laxa*  
 Painted Petals are so prolific and successfully naturalized in the Hill Country that they become an anticipated friendly face that smiles the arrival of Spring. A gift from South Africa of the Iridaceae family. The Coralish five petal flowers have the simplistic beauty of a single brush stroke. One plant can multiply by 50 to 1 from bulblets and seed.

#### Hinckley's Columbine

*Aquilegia hinckleyana*  
 Fancy colored Columbines are alpine plants of the rocky mountains and don't tolerate wet hot and humid conditions. Fortunately for us, the yellow "Hinckley" and red "Canadensis" species thrive in the Hill Country. Often misplanted, they thrive and self sow in "Dry Shade"; that is without irrigation. They go dormant in Summer and die back to a tough bulblets. Forgotten they'll smile dependably for you in Spring!

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