

# Fragrance is important in landscaping

*Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service — Galveston County Office*

The Galveston County Master Gardeners' Ornamental and Perennial Plant Sale is 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 15.

With more than 100 types of perennials, vines, ornamental grasses and flowering shrubs available, a diverse variety of options is available to fulfill three common dimensions required for a pleasing landscape — texture, form and color.

We've changed the schedule of activities a bit from past sales. There will not be a seminar before this fall's sale.

A sale preview seminar was provided last Saturday by Heidi Sheesley.

I was impressed with the rather innovative approach of one seminar participant. He used his high-tech cellphone to capture digital images of the PowerPoint program.

At the end of the presentation, he already had his must-buy shopping list of plants.

After the seminar, I walked to the nearby horticulture demonstration garden in Carbine Park.

As I strolled through the north section of the garden, my senses were greeted with an almost intoxicating fragrance.

My casual walk reminded me there is a fourth dimension to any landscape that might often be overlooked.

This is the dimension of fra-



PHOTO BY Dr. William M. Johnson

More than 100 types of perennials, vines, ornamental grasses and flowering shrubs will be available including many hard-to-find varieties.

grance and although its appreciation is not new, it sometimes seems to have been cast aside to make room for texture, form and color.

While a primary function of most landscapes is to engage the eye, we should look for opportunities to also engage the sense of smell.

It has been said smell is the sense that is most memorable and none of the other senses is more subtle in its suggestions or more reminiscent of a certain time.

There is a special delight in entering a home landscape and first becoming aware of a pleasing fragrance and the satisfaction of finally discov-

ering its source.

You will get the most enjoyment out of fragrant plants when they are placed near a path or a space you routinely pass through.

So, what was the plant that so delighted my senses during my walk through the horticulture demonstration garden?

It's commonly known as sweet almond verben. Few shrubs sweeten the air of a warm summer evening like the sweetly fragrant and abundant spikes of white blooms on this deciduous shrub.

It blooms from late summer to into fall. Although it can grow up to 10 to 15 feet in height, it



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Dr. William Johnson is a horticulturist with the Galveston County Office of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Visit his website at <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston>.

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can be pruned in between bloom cycles for denser growth.

Sweet almond verbena and a wide array of perennials, vines, ornamental grasses and flowering shrubs will be offered at the upcoming Master Gardeners' Perennial and Ornamental Plant Sale on Oct. 15.

Remember, many types of plants can be used to add the fourth dimension of fragrance to the home landscape.

Having a private, fragrant place in your garden nurtures the soul — it can be a relaxing and beneficial retreat to ease the stress after a long day at the office.

Dr. William Johnson is a horticulturist with the Galveston County Office of Texas AgriLife Extension Service, The Texas A&M System. Visit his Web site at <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston>.

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#### At A Glance

WHAT: Buried Treasures ... Bulbs, Corms and Rhizomes

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Saturday

WHERE: Galveston County AgriLife Extension Office in Carbide Park at 4102 Main St. (FM 519), in La Marque

CALL: 281-534-3413, Exts. 1, 2

TOPICS: Master Gardener Anna Wygrys will provide a PowerPoint presentation on the various plants grown from bulbs, corms, rhizomes and tubers which thrive under our growing conditions.

WHAT: Master Gardeners' Perennial and Ornamental Plant Sale

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 15

WHERE: Wayne Johnson Community

