

## GARDENS IN BLOOM

(week of Dec 20, 2020)

The South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center currently cannot offer Saturday classes, weekend Rep-Tales and Parrot Talk, or Orchid-ology series, due to COVID-19 protocol, plus health and safety of guests. Fulfilling its horticulture, environmental education and conservation mission, **WHAT'S BLOOMING**, each week spotlights a featured tropical and native plant—to enjoy on a visit this week, or enhance your landscape!

### VETERAN'S HONOR & MOONSHINE Hybrid Tea Roses

Red and white may be Christmas colors, but **Veterans Honor** and **Moonstone** are among roses with a spring bloom, as well as in South Texas' cooler winter months! Through January, enjoy roses in the large Rose Garden surrounding the Pavilion; and the Military Rose Bed by the parking area flagpole, before annual pruning in early February. Roses often bloom beautifully in fall and winter, better than in summer heat!

**Veteran's Honor** Hybrid Tea Rose, introduced by Jackson & Perkins in 2013, is considered the ultimate red Hybrid Tea, and a tribute to those serving our country over the years. Big shapely buds unfurl into huge blossoms of impeccable form and stunning red color. Extra-long stems make them perfect cut roses.

**Moonstone** is a gem of a Hybrid Tea flower with large blossoms that display beauty of its classic show form and pearly colors. Since plants do best in warm temperatures, current winter afternoons in the 70s and low 80s help this Hybrid Tea Rose flourish now in South Texas.



### CEDAR ELM TREE (*Ulmus crassifolia*)

Cedar Elms are providing some fall color as leaves finally change from green to gold and light brown before, being deciduous, finally falling for winter. The leaves, only 1-1.5 inches long with serrated edges, will re-emerge in March, providing refreshing shade until next December.

Cedar Elms are native to the Coastal Bend, naturally occurring along riverbanks. Native range stretches from Northern Mexico near the Gulf, along the Texas Coast, up through East Texas into northern Louisiana and Southern Arkansas, as far as northwest Mississippi.

Among the best shade trees for our area, Cedar Elms are found several places in the Botanical Gardens, including the Sensory Garden, and as a backdrop to Rose Garden raised beds. Reaching 30-40 feet tall and 20-30 feet wide, although having no foliage in winter, they handle prevailing winds with less leaning than Live Oaks.

