



During the 2009 State Fair of Texas (September 25 through October 18), Andrea broadcast a daily "green" tip on CNN-1190 AM radio in North Texas. Ashton Ritchie, from the [Scotts Miracle Gro Company](#), joined her.

These tips, which also appeared on our website (www.energizegreen.com), are listed by their date of broadcast on CNN 1190 AM Radio.

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Heard each Saturday at 9 am on CNN 1190 am in north Texas, and coast-to-coast at 12 noon Eastern time, 9 am Pacific on the USA Radio Network.

Tip #1

Andrea: *"Hey, Ashton! Lots of us love to get our hands dirty in the garden, but sometimes, we just don't have the space or time to tend to a large area. What can we do?"*

Ashton: *"Well Andrea, why not try container gardening? You can do it indoors or out, for flowers or veggies, and it doesn't take much space! First, choose pots that have drainage holes so the plants don't sit in water. Be sure to use a saucer under the pot to catch and hold any excess water. And, to help guarantee success, get a really good potting mix that helps to protect against over- and under-watering while supplying some good plant food. You might say it will help you take the guess work out of watering. For more tips, visit [Scotts Miracle Gro](#) (www.scotts.com).*

Andrea: *Thanks Ashton! Join us tomorrow for another fall gardening tip, brought to you by Scotts and The State Fair of Texas. And be sure to visit the State Fair from Sept. 25th to October 18th. I'll be there just to the right of Big Tex with 50 area landscaping companies and 60 local artists at the Fall Garden Exhibition. Visit [BigTex.com](#) for a complete list of participants and for more about what's going on daily at the state fair!"*

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Tip #2

Earth Conscious Radio

Andrea: *I'm Andrea Ridout with Ashton Ritchie from the Scotts Miracle Gro Company. Hey, Ashton, even the best gardeners have our share of planting failures. Dead plants look like the plot for a scary Halloween movie. What can we do?*

Ashton: *Well Andrea, you can always look like you have a green thumb when it comes to gardening by just following one tip: Don't put the wrong plant in the wrong place at the wrong time of year. Follow local advice as to what grows here in Texas and read the tag. "Full Sun, moderate water" doesn't mean you plant under a shade tree and water a couple times a day. Paying attention to your plants recommended care and the right feeding and you'll never have to use your thumb as a scapegoat again. For more tips, visit [Scotts Miracle Gro](#) (www.scotts.com).*

Tip #3

Andrea: *I'm Andrea Ridout with Ashton Ritchie from the Scotts Miracle Gro Company. Hey, Ashton, seems like every year there comes a time when it simply doesn't rain. Or when water restrictions limit our use of sprinklers in the yard and garden.*

Ashton: *Well Andrea, One of the most important things you can do to conserve water during dry spells is mulch. Make sure you use 3 to 4 inches of organic mulch to help hold moisture in your soil and to cut down on weeds that can steal water from your good plants. Avoid pruning when plants are stressed by drought. And when you mow your lawn, leave the grass clippings in place. They'll act as mulch for the lawn and help recycle nutrients and moisture back into the ground. For more tips, visit [Scotts Miracle Gro](#) (www.scotts.com).*



Tip #4

Andrea: *I'm Andrea Ridout with Ashton Ritchie from the Scotts Miracle-Gro Company. Hey Ashton, spring is the time most of us are out and about puttering in our yards. But what about this time of year, got any tips if we want to do some puttering now?*

Ashton: *Andrea, puttering is always good in the garden. Fall is a prime time to plant most trees and many perennials. Before you plant, make sure to thoroughly prepare your soil by loosening it and mixing in at least 2 to 3 inches of a good garden soil mix. Make sure the hole is extra wide, but not deeper than the plant grew in the container. Don't forget to water and mulch. The cooler weather helps plants get used to their new homes, since the plants energy goes to root growth instead of leaf growth. For more tips, visit [Scotts Miracle Gro](http://www.scotts.com) (www.scotts.com).*

Tip #5

Andrea: *I'm Andrea Ridout with Ashton Ritchie from the Scotts Miracle-Gro Company. Hey Ashton, we are lucky to live here in Texas because we can plant another round of veggies this time of year. Help us out with some ideas.*

Ashton: *Andrea, there is nothing like picking and eating the same day. Plant carrots, lettuce, spinach and other fall veggies now and you will be enjoying fresh pickings for Thanksgiving Dinner and into early winter. Always add fresh compost or a good garden soil mix when you plant. Pay attention to spacing suggestions on the seed packs or plant tags, feed, water and stand back. And, if you do not have the space, you can always plant a container of lettuce and spinach near the kitchen door. For more tips, visit [Scotts Miracle Gro](http://www.scotts.com) (www.scotts.com).*

Tip #6

Andrea: *I'm Andrea Ridout with Ashton Ritchie from the Scotts Miracle-Gro Company. Hey Ashton, I am ready to forget my lawn for the year, but deep down I know I should probably be doing something. Am I right?*

Ashton: *Andrea, how you treat your lawn now affects how it will look in spring. As long as the ground isn't frozen, your lawn is still growing where you can't see it. If you put your ear to the ground, you will hear your grass saying "Feed me Andrea one more time this year to help build up my roots!" Here's some good news, you don't have to rake your leaves if you can mow them to dime size or smaller. That last fall feeding will help turn those small leaf pieces into compost right on your lawn. For more tips, visit [Scotts Miracle Gro](http://www.scotts.com) (www.scotts.com).*

Tip #7

Andrea: *I'm Andrea Ridout with Ashton Ritchie from the Scotts Miracle-Gro Company. Hey Ashton, while all lawns may be green – at least we hope so – they're not all the same. How can we figure out what kind of grass we have?*

Ashton: *You are right Andrea, the types of grass that grow in Texas can be quite different. And, in some cases lawns here are a mixture of different kinds of grass. Some of these grasses grow better in sun and others do better in shade. It does help to know your grass type since there are different kinds of products made for different types of lawns. OK. I hear you thinking, "How on earth am I going to figure out what kind of lawn I have?" There is a simple way to figure this out. Go to www.scotts.com for some help based on your zip code.*



Tip #8

Andrea: *I'm Andrea Ridout with Ashton Ritchie from the Scotts Miracle-Gro Company. So Ashton, the nights are getting cooler and I think I am hearing things... the patter of little feet! No it's not what you think. Could I have a mouse in the house?*

Ashton: *Why yes Andrea, fall is the most common time to experience a mouse problem since those little guys are looking for shelter as the weather turns cooler. Here are some tips: Keep any food covered, including pet food, bird food, grass seed and bulbs. Sprinkle a little baby powder or flour along baseboards where mice might leave their tracks. Then you will know where to set one of those great new traps that don't pinch fingers, contain no poisons and are safe around children and pets. For more tips, visit [Scotts Miracle Gro](http://www.scotts.com) (www.scotts.com).*

Tip #9

Andrea: *I'm Andrea Ridout with Ashton Ritchie from the Scotts Miracle-Gro Company. So Ashton, one time when we were chatting you were telling me about Dead-heading, and it doesn't have anything to do with Jerry Garcia's rock and roll band!*

Ashton: *Andrea, you make me laugh. Dead-heading simply means cutting or pinching off flowers on perennials, annuals or herbs which have bloomed and are starting to fade. This stops the seeds from forming, and allows the plant to spend its energy forming new blooms. Some folks worry that if they don't do this perfectly they might harm their plants. Don't worry, just pinch off faded flowers about a quarter inch above new buds. So the next time you hear The Grateful Dead on the radio, remember to go out and do some dead-heading. For more tips, visit [Scotts Miracle Gro](http://www.scotts.com) (www.scotts.com).*

Tip #10

Andrea: *I'm Andrea Ridout with Ashton Ritchie from the Scotts Miracle-Gro Company. So Ashton, gardening is starting to wind down and my planters are starting to run out of gas. When they are gone, my deck is going to look empty. Got any suggestions?*

Ashton: *How about adding some winter color? Replant your containers with plants that look good together and will survive any cold weather. Keep in mind the three shape rule: Tall plant in the middle, round and full plants around them and cascading plants down the sides. Think about a small evergreen, surrounded by winter pansies with trailing ivy. Or go with a dwarf holly with primrose and flowering ornamental kale. Just remember to use one of those moisture control potting mixes when you plant. Go to www.scotts.com for more tips.*

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