

January

- ❑ **Prune Roses** to three main canes approximately 18" in height. Clean up all dropped leaves from around the roses.
- ❑ **Prune** fruit trees, and other leafless trees and shrubs from December through January. **WARNING:** Do not prune spring blooming shrubs and trees such as lilac, quince, flowering cherry etc. until the blooming period is over.
- ❑ **Dormant Spraying-** Early winter is a good time to make an application of dormant spray to help control over-wintering insect and disease problems. A combination Lime Sulfur and Oil spray or Copper spray are the ones most often used for winter dormant spraying. Do not spray when the temperatures are below freezing; or when it is raining; or at a time when the wind is blowing. Apply the spray according to label directions.
- ❑ Start seeds of **cool-season vegetables** such as spinach now for seedlings to plant outside in February.
- ❑ **Plant perennial vegetables and fruits.** You can set out strawberries, rhubarb, raspberry, blackberry and many other cane fruits, asparagus and artichokes
- ❑ If **cold weather** is predicted, make sure plants are well watered (dry plants are more susceptible to frost damage).
- ❑ Move tender container plants (citrus, cymbidium, Mandevilla, and hibiscus, for instance) beneath overhangs or into the garage. For frost-tender plants too large to move or growing in the ground, protect with burlap (don't let the cover touch the leaves)
- ❑ Sharpen and clean gardening tools.

February

- ❑ **Pick up old blossoms.** Azaleas and camellias are both prone to diseases called petal blight (caused by two different organisms). Brown lesions develop, and the flowers rot. Azalea flowers cling to the leaves or stems; camellias drop from the plant. The best way to control the diseases is to collect and discard infected blossoms and avoid overhead watering. Apply 4 inches of organic mulch beneath camellias to reduce spore survival.
- ❑ If you haven't already done so, apply dormant **sprays** to control aphids, black spot, and mildew. Use horticultural oil with lime sulfur or fixed copper.
- ❑ **Plant** bare-root roses. Set them in well-drained soil in a spot that gets six to eight hours of sunlight. If soil is sandy or heavy clay, amend it with organic matter such as fir bark or compost.
- ❑ **Lawns** - Late this month or early next are good times to feed the lawn with a spring type lawn fertilizer. If moss is a problem, use a spring fertilizer that contains a moss killer, so you can do both jobs in one easy application. A follow-up application of dolomite lime will help sweeten the soil.
- ❑ **Start Seeds** for vegetables and summer annuals indoors.
- ❑ **Fertilizing** - Mid to late February is the time to fertilize trees, shrubs and evergreens. 10-10-10 for most plants. Use a rhododendron type fertilizer to feed evergreens like junipers, conifers, broadleaf evergreens, rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias. Use a rose or all-purpose garden type fertilizer to feed roses, fruit and flowering trees, plus other deciduous trees and shrubs. If you use dry type fertilizers, be sure to water-in thoroughly after application.
- ❑ Remember to water plants under eaves and in containers. It's important to **deep water trees** and shrubs if it isn't raining on a regular basis. Their root systems are starting to grow now.

March

- ❑ **Warmer days tempt gardeners...** Before you start digging take a handful of soil and squeeze it gently. It should crumble in your hands. Otherwise it is probably too wet to work. Digging and tilling wet soil can ruin the soil structure.
- ❑ **Weeding** - it is one that really needs to be accomplished before the weeds have a chance to flower and go to seed and really become a nuisance. **Remember** once the weeds go to seed you can be fighting that weed seed for up to 7 years or more. Some types of weeds produce up to 10,000 or more seeds per plant. Most weeds can simply be pulled or cultivated out of the garden. Others, some of the more persistent like horsetails, morning glories or quackgrass you may need to use an herbicide to effectively eliminate them.
- ❑ **Control Snails:** Now is the time to set out snail bait. Go to your local nursery for a snail bait. Use Sluggo if you want a non toxic alternative.
- ❑ **Roses:** As soon as buds begin to swell, feed roses with a high-nitrogen fertilizer such as 20-10-10, or a commercial rose food. Continue feeding every four to six weeks until October.
- ❑ **Planting and transplanting** - Right now is an excellent time to plant or transplant most any garden tree or shrub. Fruit, flowering and shade trees are planted right now during their winter dormant season.
- ❑ **Amend Soil:** Before planting, amend soil with compost, ground bark, or other organic material. This will increase water retention in sandy soil, decrease it in heavy clay soil, and improve the texture of both kinds.
- ❑ **Lawns:** Aerate, de-thatch and fertilize.
- ❑ **Turn on automatic sprinkler system.** Reduce duration and frequency but ensure existing plants do not dry out.
- ❑ Place **Yellow Jacket traps** out early this month to catch the queen before she starts her family. Prevention is the best cure!

April

- ❑ **Roses:** Apply mulch to save water, smother weeds, and keep soil cooler. Spread 1 to 3 inches (depending on size of plant) of bark chips, compost, wood shavings, or other organic material. Leave a circle of bare soil around the plant's base.
- ❑ **Blast aphids** off plants with a jet of water from a hose. If infestations are heavy, spray with insecticidal soap.
- ❑ **Divide Your Perennials** -- Divide perennials that will bloom in the summer or fall once they've sent up significant foliage at least a couple inches tall. (Wait to divide spring-blooming perennials after they bloom.)
- ❑ **Lawns:** Renovate weak lawns by over seeding/reseeding the lawn late this month.
- ❑ **Summer flowering bulbs-** plant summer flowering bulbs like dahlias, gladiolus and lilies. Mix bulb fertilizer, processed manure and peat moss into the planting soil.
- ❑ **Plant summer blooming annuals-**
- ❑ **Start vegetable garden.** Plant perennials and some cooler season vegetables such as, radishes, carrots, lettuce, spinach, beans etc. Warmer season vegetables should wait until next month
- ❑ **Evergreen pruning** - The months of March, April and May are ideal for pruning Evergreens. So if you have a juniper, conifer or cypress that needs shearing or pruning this is a good time to accomplish this task. Keep your pruning cuts within the green (foliage) parts of the plant. If you cut back into bare branches it is sometimes difficult or impossible for the plant to re-grow from the old growth.
- ❑ **Mulch:** the soil has warmed up enough that you can apply a 3-4" layer of well composted mulch on flower beds and around trees and shrubs. It reduces weeds, conserves moisture, and prevents disease.

May

- ❑ **Plant** summer and fall blooming perennials as well as shrub, tree, or vine.
- ❑ When shopping at the nursery, look for plants that have good leaf color (green leaves should be a deep green, not pale and yellowish) and attractive form. Check container bottoms to make sure roots aren't growing out of them (which may mean plants are root bound). Plants should also be well watered.
- ❑ **Vegetables:** Start corn, tomatoes, peppers etc in garden. Plant corn in blocks. Corn plants carry both male and female flowers. The male flowers are on the tassels at the tip of the plant; the female flowers form the silk that hangs out of the developing ears. In order for the ears to produce a full set of kernels, wind must distribute pollen to all of them,. To ensure good pollination, plant corn in blocks of no fewer than 16 plants (4 rows of 4 plants).
- ❑ For **pumpkins** by Halloween, sow seeds now.
- ❑ **Apply iron chelate.** If foliage on azaleas, camellias, citrus, and gardenias is yellowish with green veins, the plants need iron. Use iron chelate (according to label directions) or a complete fertilizer (10-10-10) containing iron chelate.
- ❑ Select those plants that you need to replace, such as those that were winter killed or have lost shape due to improper pruning. Plants that are grown in containers, they can be planted into the garden at anytime now.
- ❑ **Water** infrequently as possible, deeply and ensure that the entire root zone is wetted.
- ❑ **Lawns:** During the summer months, turfgrass requires between 1- 1.5 inches of water per week. This should be done during the cooler part of the day, when the winds are low and there is sufficient time for the droplets to dry from the blades. Mow more frequently but always lightly, never taking off more than 1/4 of new growth at a time. Set blade height to between 2 and 3 inches

June

- ❑ **Feed roses.** To encourage growth and repeat blooming, feed plants with a complete fertilizer (one containing nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium); if leaves are mostly yellow and veins remain green (indicating chlorosis), also give plants iron. Water thoroughly before applying any kind of fertilizer and water again afterward if using a granular type. **Remove** spent roses. Cut blooms above a five-leaflet leaf.
- ❑ **AVOID** overhead watering of roses and other shrubs with large blooms to reduce disease.
- ❑ **Shear spring-blooming perennials.** To keep low-growing, spring-blooming perennials full and compact, remove spent blooms and 1 or 2 inches of growth. Use sharp grass shears or hedge shears.
- ❑ There is still time to plant warm season vegetables
- ❑ **Feed, water** (especially on hot days), **weed, and mulch.** Remove faded blooms to encourage new blooms on ever-blooming shrubs
- ❑ To eliminate aphids and spider mites from roses, spray plants with water, then apply insecticidal soap.
- ❑ **Clean up** fallen leaves. If they're diseased, discard them (don't compost them).
- ❑ You can remove yellowed, brown **bulb** foliage as soon as it pulls off without resistance -- no sooner!
- ❑ Now is the time to **control** a number of diseases. Check junipers, birches, cherry and arborvitae for bagworms and other leaf-eating caterpillars, then treat with *Bacillus thuringiensis* as needed. Watch for fungal disease on tomatoes and roses and spray with a fungicide (a botanical, earth-friendly one if possible).
- ❑ Continue slug and snail control.
- ❑ **Set the mower** up a notch or two as the month heats up. Keep the grass a little longer in length.

July

- ❑ **Plant** summer and fall blooming perennials as well as shrub, tree, or vine.
- ❑ **Harvest vegetables and fruit.** Tie up tomatoes and beans
- ❑ **Water:** July is the month of peak water requirement. Ensure plants are watered deeply. After this month irrigation times and durations can be reduced.
- ❑ Hanging baskets and **container** plantings may need special watering consideration should the temperatures get much above seventy degrees. In fact, they may need daily or twice daily watering if it should get hot, into the eighties or nineties.
- ❑ **Limit new planting during the hottest part of the summer.** Choose days that are overcast where lower temperatures are expected of the next few days.
- ❑ **Feed, water** (especially on hot days), **weed, and mulch.** Remove faded blooms to encourage new blooms on ever-blooming shrubs
- ❑ To eliminate aphids and spider mites from roses, spray plants with water, then apply insecticidal soap.
- ❑ **Clean up** fallen leaves. If they're diseased, discard them (don't compost them).
- ❑ **Thin the fruit** of apricots, pears, peaches, apples, and other orchard fruit after fruit drop. Keep a vigilant eye out for pests and diseases, and treat promptly and organically. Keep the ground clean of litter and fallen fruit.
- ❑ **Use liquid organic** fertilizer on your potted plants every two weeks. Frequent watering can lead to leaching of valuable nutrients.
- ❑ **Monitor** spots and objects in your yard that might be harboring standing water. Drain these areas for mosquito control. Change birdbath water every few days, and clean birdbaths with a firm blast of water and a scrub brush weekly.

August

- ❑ **Feed, water** (especially on hot days), **weed, and mulch.** Remove faded blooms to encourage new blooms on ever-blooming shrubs
- ❑ To eliminate aphids and spider mites from roses, spray plants with water, then apply insecticidal soap.
- ❑ **Clean up** fallen leaves. If they're diseased, discard them (don't compost them).
- ❑ Put out ant bait (ants farm aphids to other plants).
- ❑ Put out earwig bait near flowers
- ❑ **Plant** fall vegetable garden. Such as lettuce, radishes, cauliflower, spinach etc.
- ❑ **Shrubs:** Cut flowering shrubs to encourage more flowers and to shape bush.
- ❑ **Clean up any fruit trees.** Pick any left over fruit before they can get a fungus that can harm future crops.
- ❑ **Feed fruit trees.** One last time until March for increased vigor in the spring.
- ❑ **Weeding** - As the weather gets warmer and the garden is watered more there is a likelihood that weed seeds will germinate faster. Take time to keep the weeds cultivated out of all parts of the garden. Since weeds are hosts to many insects and diseases it is important to keep them under control, so pests and diseases do not infest your other garden plants.
- ❑ **Deep water trees.** Many sprinkler and drip-irrigation systems aren't programmed to run long enough for irrigating trees adequately or deeply. To avoid moisture stress during hot weather, water trees to a depth of up to 24 inches, depending on the size and age of the tree. Thoroughly soak the soil under the tree's canopy. Check moisture penetration by digging down with a trowel
- ❑ **Lawn:** Reseed brown areas with best regrown grass selection. Top seed weak lawn areas with rye grass for a quick winter green carpet.

September

- ❑ **Fruit trees** are bearing, so water frequently and deeply for plump fruit.
- ❑ **Plant** winter vegetables while the soil is still warm- broccoli, cauliflower, snow peas, cabbage, and beets, onions etc
- ❑ **Prune** all sap bleeders such as maple, walnut and large magnolias
- ❑ **Apply** pre-emergent weed control to prevent the most stubborn weeds of spring
- ❑ **Best time to plant lawn-** Sept 15-Oct 15. The soil is still warm enough to promote root growth and seed germination
- ❑ **Feed** acid loving plant with Azalea/Rhododendron food
- ❑ **PERENNIALS.** Plant perennials now so roots get established through late fall and winter
- ❑ **CARE FOR ROSES** To encourage a good flush of flowers in fall, give plants a shot of fertilizer now. Make sure the soil is moist before applying it; water well afterward. Also remove faded blooms and rose hips to encourage bud formation. If powdery mildew is starting to show up on leaves, or if spider mites are present, spray foliage with a nontoxic fungicide made from sulfur.
- ❑ **POINSETTIAS AND CHRISTMAS CACTUS** - these plants should be brought indoors and prepare them for Christmas flowering. Indoors the plants need to be placed in a spot where they will get 10 hours of bright light and 14 hours of darkness. The Poinsettia needs warm temperatures of about 65 to 70 degrees, while the Christmas cactus needs cool temperatures of about 50 to 60 degrees. The application of 0-10-10 fertilizer this month and again next should help encourage the development of flower buds on these two plants.
- ❑ **Water** in the early morning. Water the soil, not the leaves. Water deeply and occasionally rather than shallow and often.

October

- ❑ **Time for planting-** ALL fall is the best time to plant new landscapes. The soil is still warm, but the weather is not too hot and it is the beginning of the rainy season so irrigation is not as critical. Landscapes have the best chance of surviving if planted in the fall.
- ❑ **Plant cool season annuals** such as Pansies, Violas, Primroses, Calendula, Chrysanthemums
- ❑ **Fertilize lawn with a high nitrogen fertilizer.**
- ❑ **Lawns.** Fall is an ideal time to plant grass seeds or lay sod. Prepare the bed thoroughly. Rotary-till the soil, turn in plenty of organic matter (such as compost), and apply a lawn fertilizer for new lawns (follow package directions).
- ❑ **Halt snails.** Cool, damp fall weather brings on snails. To control these pesky creatures, apply a bait containing iron phosphate which is safe to use around edible crops, children, pets, and wildlife. Or you can surround the edges of pots and raised beds with copper barrier tape.
- ❑ **Harvest** the last of the summer vegetables as well as the first crop of the fall vegetables
- ❑ Lightly **breakup** top layer of soil. Add gypsum to heavy clay soils.
- ❑ **Remove** spent flowers. Cut back plants finished blooming to 4-6" above ground.
- ❑ **Dig up, divide,** replant and fertilize all early blooming perennials not divided in the past 2 years.
- ❑ **WATERING** - One of the major reasons why some plants do not make it through winter's cold weather is because the soil is too dry. So it is very important to take time and check to see that all plants have sufficient soil moisture. Be especially careful to check the plants under the eaves of the house and under tall evergreens and other areas where the soil tends to dry-out quickly.

November

- ❑ **Plant** pink, white and red cyclamens in protected areas.
- ❑ **Give your lawn a nitrogen break.** Fertilize with a high Potassium (P) and Phosphorus (K)
- ❑ **Do not fertilize** roses, shrubs or trees through dormant period.
- ❑ The beginning of November is the final time to dig up, **divide,** replant and fertilize all early blooming perennials not divided in the past 2 years.
- ❑ **Fruit Trees:** Prune back long limbs to stabilize tree for winter.
- ❑ **Add thick (5-6") layer of mulch** in vegetable garden and around all perennials and shrubs.
- ❑ **WATERING** - One of the major reasons why some plants do not make it through winter's cold weather is because the soil is too dry. So it is very important to take time and check to see that all plants have sufficient soil moisture. Be especially careful to check the plants under the eaves of the house and under tall evergreens and other areas where the soil tends to dry-out quickly.
- ❑ **Plant** the spring flowering tulips, daffodils, hyacinths and crocus bulbs
- ❑ **Winterizing** - Tender plants like geraniums, begonias, impatiens and gerbera daisies, bougainvillea, and cymbidium orchids should be brought indoors before the first frost ruins them. If they cannot be brought indoors- spray them with Cloud Cover and move to a protected area of your yard. Likewise, fuchsias, dahlias and other semi-tender plants should be prepared for their winter storage
- ❑ **DORMANT SPRAYING** - As soon as the leaves fall from fruit trees, shade or flowering trees, raspberries and other deciduous plants they can be sprayed for the first time with a dormant spray.
- ❑ Spray for mildew and black spot as required.

December

- ❑ **WATERING** - One of the major reasons why some plants do not make it through winter's cold weather is because the soil is too dry. So it is very important to take time and check to see that all plants have sufficient soil moisture. Be especially careful to check the plants under the eaves of the house and under tall evergreens and other areas where the soil tends to dry-out quickly.
- ❑ **Fertilize** specialty shrubs such as azaleas, Camellias, Dogwood, Roses with 5-10-10 – 1-2 handfuls per plant.
- ❑ **Winterizing** - Tender plants like geraniums, begonias, impatiens and gerbera daisies, bougainvillea, and cymbidium orchids should be brought indoors before the first frost ruins them. If they cannot be brought indoors- spray them with Cloud Cover and move to a protected area of your yard. Likewise, fuchsias, dahlias and other semi-tender plants should be prepared for their winter storage
- ❑ **DORMANT SPRAYING** The second spraying should take place in December. Most dormant sprays are a combination of liquid lime, sulfur and oil. This spraying helps control over-wintering insects and diseases. Apply according to label instructions.
- ❑ **CLEAN-UP** - Take some time to clean up the garden this month. Dead leaves can be cut off perennials and the debris from summer plants can be collected and added to the compost pile. A little time spent on grooming the garden will certainly improve the overall appearance of the garden for the rest of the fall and winter.
- ❑ Plant /transplant trees and shrubs during the dormant season with the minimum amount of transplanting shock