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APRIL GARDENING TIPS

This is a Great Time to Plant!

PLANT:

- **Annuals & Perennials** - Supertunia, begonia, impatiens, coleus, penta, alyssum, marigold, sweet potato vine, zinnia, caladium, dianthus, lantana, pincushion, salvia, blackfoot daisy, coral bells, verbena, etc.
- **Roses** including Earth-kind varieties which are heat/drought tolerant and more resistant to insects/black spot.
- **Edibles** - Tomatoes, squash, peppers, cucumbers, beans, corn, okra, eggplant, melons, strawberries, herbs, fruit trees, pecans, grapevines and berry bushes.
- **Trees, shrubs, vines, ornamental grasses, groundcovers, including St. Augustine, Bermuda & Zoysia sod.**
- **In all new plantings, use Covington's Soil Builder** containing compost, greensand & expanded shale (holds 38% of its weight in water) to break up clay, add nutrients, retain moisture & revitalize microbial activity.
- Also use our new **Covington's Potting Soil** containing Peat Moss, Screened Compost, Screened Pine Mulch, Rice Hulls, a wetting agent, Organic Fertilizer (derived from bone & blood meal), and an organic bio stimulant Vitazyme. This potting soil will need less water than conventional all peat mixes, and with the organic fertilizer & biostimulants you will be able to grow the largest flowers and the biggest tomatoes in town!

PRUNE:

- **Groundcovers: Asian jasmine, mondograss, and liriop**e to remove old growth.
- **Evergreen shrubs** to re-shape & remove winter damage. **Spring flowering shrubs/vines** when finished blooming (**Indian hawthorn, azalea, forsythia, quince, viburnum, Carolina Jessamine, wisteria, etc.**)
- **Trees** to remove dead/damaged growth, or to remove lower limbs to raise canopy. Don't "top" trees. To prevent spread of oak wilt, prune **Red Oaks or Live Oaks** in late summer, or use pruning paint on cuts.
- Mow **lawn** regularly at recommended height (1½" for Bermuda and 2-2 ½" for St. Augustine & Zoysia).

WATER:

- Container plants, flower beds, shrubs & trees as needed to keep healthy. To improve water retention, add **Soil Moist & Expanded Shale** (or **Covington's Soil Builder**) when planting.
- Top dress landscape/flower beds with 2-3 inch layer of **mulch** to help retain moisture, reduce weeds, and maintain soil temperature.
- Trees installed for less than two years must have special care to ensure a strong and healthy root system. See our Plant Article on **Tree Care for the First Two Years** on our website or come by and pick one up.

CONVENTIONAL FERTILIZATION, WEED, DISEASE & PEST CONTROL SOLUTIONS

FERTILIZE:

- Flowers, veggies and herbs with **Covington's Premium Flower & Garden Fertilizer** or use **ferti.lome Gardeners Special 11-15-11** for your herbs and vegetables.
- Newly planted trees and shrubs every 3-4 weeks for the first year with **ferti.lome Root Stimulator**.
- Trees, shrubs, groundcovers, and perennials with **Covington's Special Tree and Shrub Fertilizer**.
- Bermuda and St. Augustine with **Covington's Premium Lawn Fertilizer 21-7-14 or Covington's High Performance all nitrogen 25-0-0 fertilizer**.
- Fruit & pecan trees with **ferti.lome Fruit, Citrus & Pecan Fertilizer**. To strengthen foliage and increase nut production on pecans, add **Hi-Yield Zinc Sulfate** at bud break, and repeat 6 weeks later.
- Roses with **ferti.lome Rose Food** or **ferti.lome Rose Food with Systemic Insecticide**.

WEEDS & DISEASE CONTROL:

- For grassy & some broadleaf weeds, apply **Hi-Yield Dimension pre-emergent** now to prevent most spring & summer weeds; use **ferti.lome Gallery pre-emergent** for dandelion & tough broadleaf weeds.

- Spot treat broadleaf weeds such as dandelion, henbit & clover in St. Augustine or Bermuda grass with **ferti.lome Weed Out.** Use **Bonide Sedge Ender** now for best control of nutsedge and crabgrass.
- Apply **ferti.lome F-Stop** to St. Augustine for fungal infections including Take All Patch and Brown Patch. For added protection, spread ½ inch layer of **Canadian Brown Sphagnum Peat Moss** on infected area & water in.
- Use **ferti.lome Systemic Fungicide** for powdery mildew, disease & fungi on hawthorne, photinias, roses, etc.
- Use **ferti.lome Fireblight Spray** or **Bonide Copper Fungicide** on pears, pyracanthas, and photinias while in full bloom to prevent fireblight.

INSECT & PEST CONTROL:

- Use **Bonide Grub and Insect Granules** beginning mid-April for grub & cinch bug control.
- Use **Hi-Yield Bug Blaster Granules** to control fire ant mounds & infestations.
- Use **Hi-Yield Slug & Snail Killer** to control slugs and snails on flowers and foliage.
- Control aphids, spider mites, mealy bugs, thrips, and other problem insects w/**Bonide Systemic Insecticide.**
- For best control of scale & to kill borers in the trunks of trees, use **Ferti.lome or Bonide Systemic Insect Drench** which protects for months.
- Continue spray program for fruit and nut trees. Use **ferti.lome Triple Action** or **Bonide Fruit Tree Sprays.**

ORGANIC FERTILIZATION WEED, DISEASE & PEST CONTROL SOLUTIONS

FERTILIZE:

- Newly planted trees and shrubs with **Garrett Juice Pro w/Mycorrhizae & Soil Microbes** to help prevent transplant shock, increase beneficial microorganisms, and encourage root development.
- Flowers, perennials and roses with **Happy Frog Fruit and Flower.**
- Turf, shrubs, & trees with **Milorganite Organic Nitrogen Fertilizer 5-2-0 or Good Natured Make-it-Green 4-1-2.**
- Vegetables with **Happy Frog Tomato & Vegetable fertilizer.**
- Use **Corn Gluten Meal 9-0-0** to feed turf and prevent weeds.
- Spread **Dry Molasses** to enhance weed control and encourage healthy soil.
- Apply **Garrett Juice Plus** once a month to your landscape to increase beneficial micro-organisms in the soil and to reduce the need for water.
- Add **Texas Greensand** for deep greening in lawns, trees and landscape plants.

WEEDS & DISEASE CONTROL:

- Spot treat grassy and broadleaf weeds with **20% Vinegar.** Add 2 oz. of Orange Oil per gallon of vinegar to enhance the kill on weeds and grasses.
- Apply **Horticultural Corn Meal** on landscape plants, vegetables, and turf grass for disease control.

INSECT & PEST CONTROL:

- Apply live insects such as **ladybugs and praying mantis.**
- Repel mosquitoes with **Cedarcide granules or spray.** Use **Mosquito Dunks & Bits** with BTI to get rid of mosquito larvae in standing water. **Mosquito Bits** also control fungus gnats in flower gardens & houseplants.
- For fire ants or grub worms, introduce **beneficial nematodes** to your yard and garden. Use **ferti.lome Come and Get It Spinosad Bait** for extra protection from fire ants or use 3-4 ounces of **Orange Oil** per gallon of water as a drench on ant mounds. Spray **Orange Oil** in areas infested with pillbugs, sow bugs & spiders.
- Control slugs & snails with **Bonide Slug Magic or Sluggo Plus w/Spinosad.**
- Use **Nature's Guide Diatomaceous Earth** for crawling insects.
- For bugs & fungus use **ferti.lome Triple Action Plus** containing Neem Oil. Also safe to use after petal fall for insect problems on fruit trees.
- Use **Bonide All Season Oil** for scale on fruit trees, hollies & crape myrtles.
- Use **Natural Guard Caterpillar Killer spray with BT** for worms on cole crops, lettuce, chard & cabbage.
- Use eco-friendly **Armadillo Repellent** in a convenient hose end sprayer to get rid of armadillos.
- Use **Bird X Netting** to protect ripening fruit from birds.
- Use **Rabbit Scram and/or Bonide Repels-All Spray** to deter pesky flower-munching rabbits.

This is a great time to plant trees and shrubs, and our Garden Center is open 7 days a week. We can assist you with all of your plant wants and needs so you can be successful in your garden and landscape.