



5518 President George Bush Hwy
Rowlett, TX 75089
(972) 475-5888
www.covingtonnursery.com

FEBRUARY GARDENING TIPS

This is a Great Time to Plant!

PLANT:

- **Trees and shrubs** so they will be established by summer. Avoid planting cold-tender plants such as: gardenia, oleander, and non-cold hardy palms. **Transplant existing shrubs/trees** that need relocating.
- **Roses** including Earth-kind varieties which are heat/drought tolerant and more resistant to insects/black spot.
- **Pecan and fruit trees, blackberries, and grapevines.**
- **Candytuft, hellebores, snapdragons, phlox, calla lily, dianthus, oxalis, heuchera & more** for color.
- **Herbs & cool-season vegetables** such as onions, potatoes, asparagus, cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, lettuce, greens, artichokes, kale, spinach.

PRUNE:

- **Trees** as needed to remove mistletoe, dead or damaged limbs, and unwanted roots--limit removal to 1 or 2 significant roots each year. Don't "top" crape myrtles & trees. Good time to prune Oaks to avoid Oak Wilt.
- **Shrubs/vines** needing heavy shearing/re-shaping (not spring flowering shrubs/vines e.g., spirea, azaleas, hydrangea, quince, forsythia, Caroline Jessamine, wisteria, which can be pruned after they finish blooming).
- **Groundcovers: Asian jasmine, mondgrass, and liriope** to remove old and damaged growth. Scalp lawn late in the month.
- **Rose bushes** up to 50-60% and climbers according to variety. Remove diseased/dead branches from all roses.
- **Fruit trees** to encourage stronger limbs. Remove vertical shoots to 10' on peaches/plums before buds swell.
- **Grapes** to remove 75% to 85% of their cane growth.

WATER:

- Container plants, beds, shrubs & trees as needed to keep healthy and **before a freeze to reduce damage**. To improve water retention, add **Soil Moist & Expanded Shale** (or **Covington's Soil Builder**) when planting.
- Top dress landscape/flower beds with a 2-3 inch layer of **mulch** to help retain moisture, reduce weeds and maintain soil temperature. Keep **frost cloth** on hand & cover tender plants to protect from freezing weather.
- 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:

- Annual & perennial flowers with **Covington's Premium Flower & Garden Fertilizer or Hi-Yield Blood and Bone Meal**.
- Newly planted trees and shrubs every 3-4 weeks for the first year with **Ferti.lome Root Stimulator**.
- Houseplants with **Ferti.lome 20-20-20 Water Soluble Plant Food**.
- Existing ryegrass and fescue with high nitrogen **Covington's Premium Lawn Fertilizer 21-7-14**
- Pecans at bud break with **Hi-Yield Zinc Sulfate**.
- Herbs and vegetables with **ferti.lome Gardeners Special**.

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 Free Zone** (effective to 40°).
- Spot treat nutsedge and crabgrass with **Bonide Sedge Ender**.

- Keep fallen leaves off your lawn—they compact and trap moisture which can lead to turf diseases. Apply **Ferti.lome F-Stop** granules to St. Augustine for fungal infections such as Take All Patch & 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 hawthorn, photinias, roses, etc.
- Start spray program for fruit/ nut trees. Use **ferti.lome Triple Action** or **Bonide Fruit Tree Sprays**.

INSECT & PEST CONTROL:

- Control aphids, spider mites, mealy bugs, other problem insects with **Bonide Systemic Insecticide**.
- For fungus gnats in houseplants, use **Hi-Yield Systemic Insect Granules**.
- For best control of scale use **Hi-Yield Dormant Oil Spray or Bonide All Seasons Spray Oil**.
- Kill borers in trunks of trees with **Ferti.lome or Bonide Systemic Insect Drench** which protects for months.
- For rabbits, use **Rabbit Scram** and/or **Bonide Repels-All Spray**.
- Use **Hi-Yield Bug Blaster Granules** to control fire ant mounds and infestations.

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 and perennials with **Happy Frog Fruit and Flower**; Roses with **Happy Frog Rose Food**.
- Turf, shrubs & trees with **Milorganite Organic Nitrogen Fertilizer 5-2-0** or **Good Natured Make-it-Green 4-1-2**; or use **Happy Frog All Purpose 5-5-5** for shrubs and trees.
- Vegetable gardens with **Happy Frog Tomato & Vegetable fertilizer**.
- Use **Good Natured Make-it-Green 4-1-2** on shrubs/trees, Bermuda, St. Augustine, existing ryegrass & fescue.
- Use **Corn Gluten Meal 9-0-0** to feed turf and prevent weeds. Also 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 during warmer days to enhance the kill on weeds and grasses.
- Keep fallen leaves off your lawn—they compact and trap moisture which can lead to turf diseases. Apply **Horticultural Corn Meal** on landscape plants and vegetables for disease control.

INSECT & PEST CONTROL:

- Use **Mosquito Bits Granules containing BTI** for fungus gnats in house plants.
- Use **ferti.lome Come and Get It Spinosad Bait** for protection from fire ants. To treat individual fire ant mounds, use 3 to 4 ounces of **Orange Oil** per gallon of water as a drench.
- Spray **Orange Oil** in areas infested with pillbugs, sow bugs, ants and spiders.
- For cabbage loopers on cole crops, use **Hi-Yield Thuricide at dusk or Spinosad**.
- For bugs & fungus use **ferti.lome Triple Action Plus** containing Neem Oil. Safe to use on fruit trees.
- Protect ripening fruit from birds with **Bird X Netting**.
- Spray **Bonide All Season Oil** for scale on holly, crape myrtles & fruit trees.
- Control slugs & snails with **Bonide Slug Magic or Sluggo Plus with Spinosad**.
- Use **Nature's Guide Diatomaceous Earth** for crawling insects.
- Use eco-friendly **Armadillo Repellant** in a convenient hose end sprayer to get rid of armadillos.
- Use **Rabbit Scram** and/or **Bonide Repels-All Spray** to deter pesky flower-mulching rabbits.

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

*For landscape design & installation, irrigation services (LI0021683), lawn, tree & shrub fertilization, or weed/disease/insect control, please call our **Landscape Services Team at (972) 475-5888 Ext. 5 today.***