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JANUARY GARDENING TIPS

This is a Great Time to Plant!

PLANT:

- **Trees and shrubs** so they will be well established by summer. Avoid planting cold-tender plants such as: gardenia, oleander, pittosporum and palms. **Transplant existing shrubs/trees** that need relocating.
- **Pecan and fruit trees, blackberries, and grapevines.**
- **Pansies, violas, cyclamen, snapdragons, dianthus, ornamental kale/cabbage** for winter color.
- **Spring-flowering bulbs** including daffodils & narcissus. **Tulips & Dutch hyacinths** that have been refrigerated for at least 45 days at 45° can also be planted now.
- **Onions, potatoes, asparagus** later this month.

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" trees. Good time to prune oak trees to avoid Oak Wilt problems.
- **Shrubs/vines** requiring 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).
- **Fruit trees** to encourage stronger limbs. Peaches and plums to 8 or 9 ft. by removing vertical shoots.
- **Grapes** to remove 75% to 85% of their cane growth.

WATER:

- Container plants, flower beds, shrubs & trees as needed to keep healthy. **Water before forecasted frosts & freezes to reduce damage to plants and trees.** To improve water retention in your plantings, add **Soil Moist & Expanded Shale** (holds 38% of its weight in water). Or use **Covington's Soil Builder** which contains compost, greensand & expanded shale, and also breaks up clay, adds nutrients, & revitalizes microbial activity.
- Top dress landscape & flower beds with at least a 2 inch layer of **mulch** to help retain moisture, reduce weeds & maintain soil temperature. Keep **frost cloth** on hand to cover & protect tender plants from freezing temps.
- 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:

- Pansies & other annuals with **Hi-Yield Blood and Bone Meal or Covington's Premium Flower & Garden Fertilizer**.
- 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**

WEEDS & DISEASE CONTROL:

- Apply **Ferti.lome Gallery** pre-emergent to prevent broadleaf weeds in late winter.
- 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 hawthorne, photinias, roses, etc.

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**.
- To kill borers in trunks of trees, use **Ferti.lome or Bonide Systemic Insect Drench** which protects for months.

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 w/**Happy Frog Fruit and Flower**; Roses w/**Happy Frog Rose Food**.
- Turf, shrubs, trees, vegetable gardens with **Milorganite Organic Nitrogen Fertilizer 5-2-0**, or for vegetables use **Happy Frog All Purpose 5-5-5**.
- Use **Nature's Guide 4-3-2 Turf Food** on shrubs/trees & on Bermuda, St. Augustine, existing ryegrass or fescue.
- Use **Corn Gluten Meal 9-0-0** to feed turf and prevent weeds.
- Spread **Dry Molasses** to enhance weed control and encourage healthy soil.
- Use **Ladybug "Sylvan Formula" All-in-One Mulch & Compost Blend** with corn meal, molasses & greensand to perk up stressed or damaged plants.
- 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 **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.
- Spray **Bonide All Season Oil** for scale on holly, crape myrtles & fruit trees.
- Control slugs & snails with **Bonide Slug Magic or Sluggo Plus w/Spinosad**.
- Use **Nature's Guide Diatomaceous Earth** for crawling insects.
- Use **ferti.lome Triple Action Plus** for insects on fruit trees; **Bird X Netting** to protect ripening fruit from birds.
- Use eco-friendly **Armadillo Repellent** in a convenient hose end sprayer to get rid of armadillos.
- Use **Mosquito Bits Granules containing BTI** for fungus gnats in house plants.

This is a great time to plant!

Our nursery experts are available 7 days a week to provide assistance with your plant needs so you can be successful in your garden and landscape.

*For landscape design and installation or drip irrigation, please call our **Landscape Services Team at (972) 475-5888 Ext. 5.***