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MARCH GARDENING TIPS

This is a Great Time to Plant!

PLANT:

- **Annual & Perennial Color** - Geranium, marigold, petunia, supertunia, alyssum, snapdragon, begonia, coleus, impatiens, dianthus, candytuft, salvia, oxalis, coral bells, blackfoot daisy, hellebores, phlox, gaillardia, etc.
- **Roses** including Earth-kind varieties which are heat/drought tolerant and more resistant to insects/black spot.
- **Trees, shrubs, vines, ornamental grasses and groundcovers.**
- **Pecan and fruit trees, berries and grapevines.**
- **Herbs & vegetables** - Lettuce, spinach, turnips & radishes. Tomatoes, peppers, squash, cucumbers, corn, and various beans later in the month.
- **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.

PRUNE:

- **Groundcovers: Asian jasmine, mondograss, and liriop**e to remove old growth. Scalp grass.
- **Trees** to remove dead or damaged growth, or to remove lower limbs. Don't "top" trees. Use pruning paint on **Red Oaks & Live Oaks** to prevent Oak Wilt spread.
- **Evergreen shrubs** to re-shape & remove winter damage. **Spring flowering shrubs/vines** when finished blooming-azaleas, hydrangeas, **Carolina Jessamine, forsythia, quince, wisteria, etc.)**

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 late freeze/frost.
- 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 with **Covington's Premium Flower & Garden Fertilizer** to promote new blooms.
- Newly planted trees and shrubs every 3-4 weeks for the first year with **ferti.lome Root Stimulator**.
- Trees, shrubs, groundcovers, perennials with **Covington's Tree and Shrub Fertilizer** after the last freeze.
- Bermuda and St. Augustine with **Covington's Premium Lawn Fertilizer 21-7-14** or **Covington's High Performance all nitrogen 25-0-0**; at end of the month.
- 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.
- Roses with **ferti.lome Rose Food** or **ferti.lome Rose Food with Systemic Insecticide**.
- Herbs & vegetables w/**Covington's Premium Flower & Garden Fertilizer** or **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 & crabgrass with **Bonide Sedge Ender**.

- 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.
- Start spray program for fruit/ nut trees. Use **ferti.lome Triple Action** or **Bonide Fruit Tree Sprays**.
- 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, photinias while in full bloom to prevent fireblight.

INSECT & PEST CONTROL:

- Control aphids, spider mites, mealy bugs, other problem insects with **Bonide Systemic Insecticide**.
- For best control of scale use **Ferti.lome Horticultural Oil Spray** or **Bonide All Seasons Hose End Spray**.
- For fungus gnats in houseplants, use **Hi-Yield Systemic Insect Granules**.
- To kill borers in trunks of trees, use **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, 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**.
- Vegetable gardens 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** 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** to kill mosquito larvae & 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.
- Spray **Bonide All Season Oil** for scale on hollies, 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 eco-friendly **Armadillo Repellent** in a convenient hose end sprayer to get rid of armadillos.
- Spray **ferti.lome Triple Action Plus** for insect problems on fruit trees up to bud break/and after petal fall.
- 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.