



5518 President George Bush Hwy  
Rowlett, TX 75089  
(972) 475-5888  
[www.covingtonnursery.com](http://www.covingtonnursery.com)

## MAY GARDENING TIPS

### *This is a Great Time to Plant!*

#### PLANT:

- **Annuals**—Begonia, impatiens, lantana, angelonia, vinca, sweet potato vine, supertunia, caladium, moss rose, purslane, scaevola, marigold, coleus, celosia, pentas, zinnias, bougainvillea, hibiscus, mandevilla, etc.
- **Perennials**—pincushion, salvia, coreopsis, daylily, blackfoot daisy, hardy hibiscus, ruellia, skullcap, Russian sage, gaura, Turk's cap, Texas primrose, sedum, butterfly bush, coral bells, ferns, hostas, and more.
- **Roses**—Earth-kind, Knockout & Drift especially are heat/drought tolerant & more resistant to insects/black spot.
- **Fruit and pecan trees, grapes, and berries.**
- **Trees, shrubs, vines, ornamental grasses, groundcovers incl. turf grass** (handwatering a must in summer)
- **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:

- **Spring flowering shrubs and vines after they have finished blooming** (Indian hawthorne, azalea, viburnum, forsythia, quince, wisteria, Carolina jessamine, etc.) **Other Shrubs** that require re-shaping.
- **Groundcovers: Asian jasmine, mondograss, and liriop**e to remove old growth.
- **Trees** to remove dead/damaged growth, or to raise canopy so more sunlight reaches grass & landscape. To prevent the spread of oak wilt, prune **Red Oaks or Live Oaks** in late summer or early fall, or use pruning paint on cuts if pruning in spring.
- **Mow lawn** regularly at recommended height. (1½" for Bermuda; 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. Treat lawn & landscaped areas with **Hydratain** for greater soil moisture retention.
- 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, St. Augustine and Zoysia 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**.
- Use **ferti.lome Systemic Fungicide** for powdery mildew, disease & fungi on hawthorne, photinias, roses, etc.

## **WEEDS & DISEASE CONTROL:**

- Spot treat broadleaf weeds such as dandelion, henbit & clover in St. Augustine or Bermuda grass with **ferti.lome Weed Out**. Spot treat nutsedge and crabgrass now 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.

## **INSECT & PEST CONTROL:**

- For bagworms, tent caterpillars & cankerworms use **Bonide Eight Insecticide** or **Hi-Yield 55% Malathion**.
- Use **Bonide Insect and Grub Control Granules** for grub & cinch bug control.
- Control fire ant mounds/infestations with **Hi-Yield Bug Blaster Granules**.
- Use **Hi-Yield Slug & Snail Killer** to control slugs and snails on flowers and foliage.
- Control aphids, spider mites, mealy bugs, thrips, other problem insects w/**Bonide Systemic Insecticide**.
- For best control of scale & to kill borers in the trunks of trees, use **Ferti.lome Systemic Insect Drench** which protects for months.
- Continue spray program for fruit and nut trees. Use **ferti.lome Triple Action** or **Bonide Fruit Tree Spray**.

## **ORGANIC FERTILIZATION, WEED, DISEASE & PEST CONTROL SOLUTIONS**

### **FERTILIZE:**

- Newly planted trees and shrubs with **Bioform Liquid Fish & Seaweed with Sulfur** to help prevent transplant shock, increase beneficial microorganisms, and encourage root development.
- Flowers and perennials w/**Happy Frog Fruit and Flower**.
- Turf, shrubs, and trees with **Milorganite Organic Nitrogen Fertilizer 5-2-0**, or **Make it Green 4-1-2**.
- Vegetable garden 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**.
- Repel mosquitoes with **Cedarcide granules or spray**. Use **Mosquito Bits Granules** with BTI to kill mosquito larvae in standing water. **Mosquito Bits** also control fungus gnats in flower beds and containers.
- For fire ants or grub worms, introduce **beneficial nematodes** to your yard and garden.
- Use **ferti.lome Come and Get It Spinosad Bait** for protection from fire ants and 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, and spiders.
- Control slugs & snails with **Bonide Slug Magic or Sluggo Plus w/Spinosad**.
- Use **Nature's Guide Diatomaceous Earth** for crawling insects.
- Spray **Bonide All Seasons Oil** for scale on fruit trees, hollies & crape myrtles.
- For worms on cole crops, lettuce, chard & cabbage, use **ferti.lome Caterpillar Killer Spray with BT**.
- Use **ferti.lome Triple Action Plus** with Neem Oil for insect problems on fruit trees after petal fall.
- Use eco-friendly **Armadillo Repellent** in a convenient hose end sprayer to get rid of armadillos.
- To deter pesky flower-munching rabbits, use **Rabbit Scram and/or Bonide Repels-All spray**
- Use **Bird X Netting** to protect ripening fruit from birds.

**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.