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OCTOBER GARDENING TIPS (Conventional & Organic)

Fall is the BEST time to Plant!

PLANT:

- **Annuals & Perennials**-Pansies, violas, ornamental cabbage/kale, cyclamen, petunias, mums, snapdragons, crotons, ornamental peppers, dianthus, salvia, Mexican petunia, gaura, coreopsis, asters, sedum, and more. Dig, divide & replant spring flowering perennials (daylilies, iris, oxalis, coneflowers, Shasta daisies).
- **Spring-blooming bulbs** - Plant daffodils now. Refrigerate tulips & hyacinths for 45 days+ at 45° and plant after mid-December.
- **Trees, shrubs, vines, ornamental grass.** This is the best time to plant so they'll be established by summer.
- **Annual or perennial ryegrass and fescue seed** early in the month for green grass all winter.

PRUNE:

- **Perennials** by removing seed heads, dead foliage and old flowers.
- **Shrubs** as needed to reshape and remove dead branches—save major pruning for late winter.
- **Trees** as needed to remove dead or damaged limbs—save major limbs for late fall or early winter. Remove unwanted surface roots—limit removal to 1 or 2 significant roots each year.
- **Tropical plants** you want to move indoors for the winter.

WATER:

- Potted plants & flower beds in sunny areas still need regular watering. Water shrubs & trees less often, but deeply to produce hardier, better rooted plants. Hand water areas that don't get sprinkled Use soaker hoses or drip irrigation for more efficient water usage. *Covington's installs drip systems (LI0021683).*
- 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.
- To improve water retention, add **Soil Moist & Expanded Shale or Covington's Soil Builder** which contains compost, greensand, and expanded shale (holds 38% of its weight in water). **Covington's Soil Builder** also breaks up clay, adds nutrients, & revitalizes microbial activity.
- 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 **Hydretain** for greater soil moisture retention.

CONVENTIONAL FERTILIZATION, WEED, DISEASE & PEST CONTROL SOLUTIONS

FERTILIZE:

- Pansies & other annuals w/**Covington's Premium Flower & Garden Fertilizer or Hi-Yield Blood & Bone Meal**.
- Herbs and vegetables with **Covington's Premium Flower & Garden Fertilizer or ferti.lome Gardeners Special 11-15-11.**
- Newly planted trees and shrubs every 3-4 weeks for the first year with **ferti.lome Root Stimulator.**
- Trees, shrubs, vines, groundcovers, and perennials with **Covington's Special Tree and Shrub Fertilizer.**
- Lawn w/**Covington's High Performance all Nitrogen 25-0-0** early in the month for quick greening OR use **Covington's Premium Lawn Fertilizer 21-7-14** as the last application for the year to winter over the lawn.
- Roses with **ferti.lome Rose Food** or **ferti.lome Rose Food with Systemic Insecticide.**
- Iron-deficient plants w/**Max Green Iron 22/60** or **Ferti.lome Soil Acidifier Plus Iron** to encourage greening.
- Strengthen foliage & increase production on fruit/pecan trees with **ferti.lome Fruit, Citrus & Pecan Fertilizer.**

WEED & DISEASE CONTROL:

- Apply **Dimension** pre-emergent herbicide to prevent grassy weeds & some broadleaf weeds from sprouting in winter to next spring; **Gallery** for broadleaf weeds that are tough to control (dandelion, henbit & clovers). **Dimension** and **Gallery** can be spread separately on your lawn on the same day, then watered in lightly.

- 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 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.
- Use **ferti.lome Systemic Fungicide** for powdery mildew, disease & fungi on hawthorn, photinias, roses, etc.
- Continue spray program for fruit and nut trees with **ferti.lome Triple Action** or **Bonide Fruit Tree Spray**.

INSECT & PEST CONTROL:

- Use **Bonide Grub and Insect Control Granules** for grub & cinch bug control.
- For grasshoppers, use **Hi-Yield 55% Malathion or Bayer Vegetable & Garden Insect Spray w/Cyfluthrin**.
- To control fire ant mounds/infestations, use **ferti.lome Come and Get It**.
- Use **Hi-Yield Slug & Snail Killer** to control slugs and snails on flowers and foliage, or use **Sluggo Plus with Spinosad** for slugs, snails, and pillbugs.
- Control aphids, spider mites, mealy bugs, thrips, & other problem insects w/**Bonide Systemic Insect Control**.
- For best control of scale & to kill borers in the trunks of trees, use **Bonide Systemic Insect Drench** which protects for months.
- For elm tree damage from elm leaf beetle larva use **Bayer 'Complete' Insect Killer**.
- For tent caterpillars & cankerworms, use **ferti.lome Borer & Tent Caterpillar Killer**.
- 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 **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, and trees with **Milorganite Organic Nitrogen Fertilizer 5-2-0** or use **Happy Frog All Purpose 5-5-5** for shrubs and trees.
- Vegetable gardens with **Good Natured Make-it-Green 4-1-2** or **Happy Frog Tomato & Vegetable fertilizer**.
- Use **Make it Green 4-1-2** fertilizer on shrubs, trees, turf grass, and existing ryegrass or 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.
- 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 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:

- 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.
- Repel mosquitoes with **Cedar Warrior granules or spray Bonide Mosquito Beater**. Use **Mosquito Bits** with BTI to kill mosquito larvae in standing water & to control fungus gnats in flower beds and containers.
- For army worms, tent caterpillars & cankerworms on shrubs/trees, 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. *In hot weather, use these oil products in early morning or evening!*
- Control slugs & snails with **Bonide Slug Magic or Sluggo Plus w/Spinosad**. Use **Nature's Guide Diatomaceous Earth** for crawling insects and grasshoppers.