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SEPTEMBER GARDENING TIPS (Conventional & Organic)

PLANT:

- **Annuals & Perennials**- Fall petunias, mums, asters, snapdragons, crotons, ornamental peppers, zinnias, purple fountain grass, salvias, rudbeckia, coneflowers, coreopsis, Mexican petunia, sedum, coral bells, and more.
- **Trees, palms, shrubs, vines, ornamental grasses & groundcovers.** Last chance to choose **Crape Myrtles** while in bloom to get the color you want.
- **Cool season veggies** including Brussels sprouts, cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, collard greens, chard, lettuce.
- **Annual or perennial ryegrass and fescue seed** in mid-September.

PRUNE:

- **Continuous-blooming bush roses** by 1/3 to promote fall flowers, then fertilize & water to stimulate growth
- Spent flowers, leaves & seedheads on **perennials**; cut back leggy **annuals** to keep compact/encourage blooms
- **Shrubs/trees** lightly to maintain shape and to remove dead/damaged limbs. Prune spent **Vitex & Crape Myrtle blooms** to encourage reblooming.
- **Fireblight damaged trees/shrubs** to remove damaged limbs. Prune below damage into healthy tissue. Sanitize pruners in bleach solution after each cut. Spray trees & shrubs w/**Bonide Copper Fungicide** after pruning.
- **Mow lawn** regularly at recommended height (1½" for Bermuda; 2" for St. Augustine and Zoysia).

WATER:

- Most container plants & flower beds in sun need daily watering. Water shrubs & trees less frequently but deeply to produce hardier, better rooted plants. Supplement sprinkler watering with hand watering to make sure plants receive adequate water. Inspect sprinkler system regularly to ensure it is working properly. 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.

NOTE: Use **tree wrap** on young shade trees (oaks, maples, etc.) to protect them from sunscald.

CONVENTIONAL FERTILIZATION, WEED, DISEASE & PEST CONTROL SOLUTIONS

FERTILIZE:

- Flowers, veggies and herbs 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**.
- Bermuda and St. Augustine with **Covington's Premium Lawn Fertilizer 21-7-14** or **Covington's High Performance all nitrogen 25-0-0 fertilizer**.
- Roses with **ferti.lome Rose Food** or **ferti.lome Rose Food with Systemic Insecticide**.
- Iron-deficient plants with non-staining **Max Green Iron 22/60** or with **Ferti.lome Soil Acidifier Plus Iron**.
- Strengthen foliage & increase production on fruit/pecan trees with **ferti.lome Fruit, Citrus & Pecan Fertilizer**.

WEEDS & DISEASE CONTROL:

- Apply **Dimension** pre-emergent herbicide to prevent grassy weeds & some broadleaf weeds from sprouting in winter to next spring; Use **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 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.
- Continue spray program for fruit and nut trees with **ferti.lome Triple Action** or **Bonide Fruit Tree Spray**.

INSECT & PEST CONTROL:

- For tent caterpillars & cankerworms, use **ferti.lome Borer & Tent Caterpillar Killer**.
- Use **Bonide Insect and Grub Control Granules** for grub & cinch bug control.
- 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 and 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.
- Continue spray program for fruit and nut trees. Use **ferti.lome Triple Action** or **Bonide Fruit Tree Spray**.
- For grasshoppers, use **Hi-Yield 55% Malathion or Bayer Vegetable & Garden Insect Spray w/ Cyfluthrin**.
- For elm tree damage from elm leaf beetle larva use **Bonide Eight** (contact killer with Permethrin).

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**.
- Vegetable gardens with **Good Natured Make-It-Green 4-1-2 Fertilizer** or **Happy Frog Tomato & Vegetable Fertilizer**.
- Use **Make it Green 4-1-2** fertilizer on shrubs, trees, Zoysia, Bermuda, St. Augustine, 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 mound 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 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 use **Sluggo Plus with Spinosad** for slugs, snails & pillbugs.
- Use **Nature’s Guide Diatomaceous Earth** for crawling insects.