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DECEMBER'S PLANNING GUIDE

This is a Great Time to Plant!

PLANT:

- Trees, shrubs, vines, groundcover. This is the best time to plant so they will be well established by summer.
- Pansies, cyclamen, dianthus, snapdragons, primulas, ornamental cabbage & kale for winter color.
- Spring-flowering bulbs including daffodils can be planted now. Tulips & Dutch hyacinths that have been refrigerated for at least 45 days at 45° can be planted after mid-December.
- Texas Tough Perennials such as daylilies, coneflowers, salvia, blackfoot daisies, ferns, hostas, etc. Dig & divide spring perennials early in the month.
- Roses (EarthKind Roses are heat and drought tolerant and resistant to insect/disease.)
- Fruit and pecan trees, grapes and berries.

PRUNE:

- Peach & plum trees to 8 or 9 ft. by removing vertical shoots. Grapevines by 80-85% of canes.
- Shrubs as needed to reshape and remove dead branches—save major pruning for late winter.
- Trees as needed to remove mistletoe, dead or damaged limbs, and unwanted roots--limit removal to 1 or 2 significant roots each year.

FERTILIZE:

- Newly planted trees and shrubs every 3-4 weeks for first year with **Ferti.lome Root Stimulator**.
- New annuals and perennials with **Osmocote** and water-soluble plant food to help them get established and promote new blooms through the winter.
- Existing ryegrass and fescue with high nitrogen **Covington's Premium Lawn Fertilizer**.
- Add **Ironite** for iron-deficient lawns, trees, shrubs and other plants to encourage greening.

BE ON WATCH:

- Roadside aster, henbit and clover are weeds that can be controlled with **Ferti.lome Weed-Free Zone**.
- Keep fallen leaves off your lawn—they compact and trap moisture which can lead to turf diseases. Apply **Ferti.lome F-Stop** to St. Augustine for Brown Patch.
- Aphids, spider mites, mealy bugs, other problem insects; control with **Bonide Systemic Insecticide**. For best control of scale use **Hi-Yield Dormant Oil**.
- To kill borers in the trunks of trees, use **Ferti.lome Insect Drench**. Protects for up to one year.
- Keep **frost cloth** on hand and cover tender plants to protect from freezing weather. Top dress landscape and flower beds with 2 inch layer of **mulch** to help retain moisture and keep soil temperature warmer.

WATER:

- Container plants, flower beds, shrubs and trees as needed to keep healthy and to lessen winter damage.
- 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.

We're open 7 days a week to serve you!

It's a great time to contact our Landscape Department to design and/or install a new landscape project.