

AUGUST'S ORGANIC PLANNING GUIDE

PLANT:

- **Annuals & Tropicals**- For sun: pentas, angelonia, periwinkles, zinnias, sweet potato vine, tropical hibiscus, bougainvillea. For morning sun/shade coleus, caladiums, begonias & impatiens
- **Perennials**-Salvia, lantana, Mexican petunia, coneflower, gaillardia, sedum, loosestrife, coral bells, ferns
- **Roses (EarthKind Roses incl. Knockout Roses** are heat/drought tolerant and resistant to insect/disease).
- **Trees, palms, shrubs, ornamental grasses & groundcover.** (Hand water throughout the summer while roots get established.) Choose **Crape Myrtles** now while in bloom for color & mature size you want.
- **Bermuda or St. Augustine sod** and water daily until rooted. It's also a great time to plant **Bermuda seed**

PRUNE:

- Spent flowers & stalks on **perennials**; leggy **annuals** (impatiens, begonias, coleus, etc.) to keep compact.
- **Rose bushes** by 1/3 early in the month, then fertilize & water to stimulate fall growth.
- **Shrubs/trees** to remove dead limbs & reshape. Use pruning paint on **Oaks** to protect against oak wilt.
- **Mow lawn** regularly at recommended height (1½" for Bermuda; 2-2½" for St. Augustine).

FERTILIZE:

- Newly planted trees and shrubs with **Nature's Guide Root Stimulator** every 2-3 weeks to help prevent transplant shock, increase beneficial microorganisms, and encourage root development.
- Trees, shrubs, flowers, perennials w/**Nature's Guide Natural Blooms** or **Happy Frog Organic Plant Food**.
- Use **Nature's Guide Corn Gluten Meal 9-0-0** to feed turf and prevent weeds. Corn Gluten Meal is great in vegetable gardens as well to prevent weeds. Also, spread **Dry Molasses** to enhance weed control.
- Plants that aren't thriving with **Nature's Guide Tree Therapy** w/corn meal, molasses, greensand, etc.
- Bermuda and St. Augustine with **Bradfield Luscious Lawn 3-2-1** alfalfa based fertilizer.
- Add **Texas Greensand** for deep greening in lawns, trees and landscape plants.

BE ON WATCH:

- For elm tree damage from elm leaf beetle larva use **Hi-Yield Thuricide** at dusk.
- For bugs use **Ferti.lome Spinosad** or **Natural Guard Insecticidal Soap**.
- Use **Sluggo Plus with Spinosad** to control slugs, snails & pillbugs on flowers and foliage.
- For fungus-**Nature's Guide Garrett Juice**, **Horticultural Corn Meal**, or **Nature's Guide Potassium Bicarbonate**.
- Use **Horticultural Corn Meal** on Bermuda and St. Augustine grass for disease control.
- Apply **Nature's Guide Garrett Juice** once a month to your landscape to increase beneficial micro-organisms in the soil and to reduce the need for water.
- Spot treat grassy and broadleaf weeds with **Nature's Guide 20% Vinegar**. **Add 2 oz of Orange Oil per gallon** to enhance the kill on weeds and grasses.
- Top dress landscape and flower beds with at least a 2 inch layer of **mulch** to help retain moisture.

WATER:

- Most container plants and flower beds in sun will need daily watering. Water shrubs & trees less frequently but deeply to produce hardier, better rooted plants. Spray **Enviro Raindrops** on soil in gardens and shrub/tree bed areas to prolong the effects of good watering. Inspect sprinkler system regularly to ensure it is working properly. Hand water areas that do not get sprinkled adequately. Use soaker hoses when possible.
- Add **Expanded Shale** (already incl in **Covington's Soil Builder**) & **Soil Moist**, before planting. Mulch beds 2" deep to improve water 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 Covington's for one.

Covington's can deliver and plant your new trees for you...let us know if you want details.

This is a great time to start planning for a new landscape in the fall. For a professional landscape design and installation, call our Landscape Services team at (972) 475-5888 Ext. 5 to schedule a convenient time to meet with one of our designers. We specialize in outdoor living!