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## DECEMBER'S PLANNING GUIDE

*This is a Great Time to Plant!*

### PLANT:

- **Trees, shrubs, ornamental grasses, groundcover, etc. now so they'll be well rooted by next summer.**
- **Pansies, panolas, violas, cyclamen, dianthus, snapdragons, primrose, kale & cabbage** 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.
- **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. Use pruning paint on any fresh cuts made on Red Oaks or Live Oaks to prevent spread of Oak Wilt Fungus.

### FERTILIZE:

- Newly planted trees and shrubs every 3-4 weeks for first year with **Ferti.lome Root Stimulator**.
- Pansies & other annuals with **Hi Yield Bone/Blood Meal**, **Osmocote**, **Ferti.lome 20-20-20** water-soluble plant food.
- 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:

- Control dandelion, roadside aster, henbit & clover with **Ferti.lome Weed-Free Zone**; Dallisgrass with **Hi-Yield Kill-Zall**.
- 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 (yellow blades that separate easily).
- Aphids, spider mites, mealy bugs, other problem insects; control with **Bonide Systemic Insecticide**. For best control of scale use **Hi-Yield Dormant Oil**, and use **Hi-Yield Fire Ant Killer** for fire ants.
- To kill borers in the trunks of trees, use **Ferti.lome Systemic Insect Drench**. Protects for up to one year.
- Top dress landscape and flower beds with 2 inch layer of **mulch** to help retain moisture, reduce weeds and maintain soil temperature. Keep **frost cloth** on hand & cover tender plants to protect from freezing weather.

### WATER:

- Container plants, flower beds, shrubs and trees as needed to keep healthy. Water before a freeze to reduce winter damage. To improve water retention, add **Soil Moist & Expanded Shale (or Covington's Soil Builder** when planting.
- 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!*

**Covington's can deliver and plant your new trees for you. Our professional planting service includes:**  
**Preparing the planting site with compost, expanded shale, soil moist & fertilizer.**  
**Mulching & hand-watering. Staking the tree if needed.**  
**We also provide a one year warranty!**