

FEBRUARY'S ORGANIC PLANNING GUIDE

PLANT:

- **Trees and shrubs** so they will be well established by summer. Avoid planting cold-tender plants such as: gardenia, oleander, non-cold hardy palms. **Transplant existing shrubs/trees** that need relocating.
- **Pecan and fruit trees, grapevines and berry plants.**
- **Roses** (container or bare-root). Earthkind Roses are heat/drought tolerant & resistant to insects/disease.
- Herbs and Cool-season vegetables - **potatoes, onions, cabbage, broccoli, asparagus, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, lettuce, spinach, radish, turnips, beets, carrots, collards, chard.**
- **Annuals (dianthus, alyssum, snapdragons, petunias, geraniums) and perennials (coral bells, ferns, ornamental grasses, phlox, pincushion, candytuft, etc.)** Divide perennials before they start growing.

PRUNE:

- **Fruit trees** to encourage strong limbs. Remove vertical shoots to 10 ft. on peaches/plums before buds swell.
- **Grapes** to remove 75-85% of their cane growth.
- **Groundcovers: Asian jasmine, mondograss, and liriop**e to remove old growth.
- **Trees** as needed to remove mistletoe, dead or damaged limbs, and unwanted roots--limit removal to 1 or 2 significant roots each year. Don't "top" trees. Use pruning paint on any fresh cuts made on Red Oaks or Live Oaks to prevent spread of Oak Wilt fungus.
- **Shrubs/vines** that require heavy shearing and re-shaping (not spring flowering shrubs or vines e.g., spirea, hydrangea, forsythia, quince, azaleas, Carolina jessamine, wisteria, etc.)
- **Rose bushes** by about 60%. Be sure and prune out any diseased or dead branches.

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, use **Nature's Guide Natural Blooms**. Pansies & other annuals, during warm spells, with **Hi-Yield Blood and Bone Meal** to encourage blooms. Roses with **Organic rose food**.
- Use **Nature's Guide Corn Gluten Meal 9-0-0** to feed turf and prevent weeds this spring.
- Plants that aren't thriving with **Nature's Guide Tree Therapy** w/corn meal, molasses, greensand, etc.
- Existing ryegrass/fescue with **Nature's Guide 4-3-2 Turf Food** or spray a liquid fertilizer like **Sea Mist**.
- Add **Texas Greensand** for deep greening in lawns, trees and landscape plants.

BE ON WATCH:

- 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.
- Keep fallen leaves off your lawn-they compact and trap moisture which can lead to turf diseases. Use **Potassium Bicarbonate or Horticultural Corn Meal** for powdery mildew and a host of diseases and fungi.
- For bugs & fungus use **Ferti.lome Triple Action** which contains Neem Oil, an all-purpose organic remedy.
- Use **Bonide All Seasons Horticultural & Dormant Spray Oil** for scale on fruit trees, hollies, crape myrtles.
- Use **Sluggo Plus with Spinosad** to control slugs, snails & pillbugs on flowers and foliage.
- Use **Hi-Yield Thuricide or Ferti.lome Dipel Dust** for worms on cole crops, lettuce, chard, cabbage & kale.
- Top dress landscape/flower beds with a 3-4 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 & trees as needed to keep healthy & before freeze to reduce winter damage. To improve water retention, use **Soil Moist & Expanded Shale** (or **Covington's Soil Builder** containing compost, expanded shale & greensand) 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 "**Tree Care for the First Two Years**" on our website or come by and pick one up.

This is a great time to plan changes to your landscape! Visit with one of our nursery professionals for help selecting the best plants for your home, or for professional landscape design and installation (incl. firepits, outdoor kitchens, patios, arbors, stonework, etc.) call our Landscape Services team at (972) 475-5888 Ext. 5.

Our installation crews work throughout the winter. We specialize in outdoor living!