



## FEBRUARY'S PLANNING GUIDE

*Plant now to beat the heat!*

### 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, mondgrass, 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 & shrubs every 3-4 weeks for first year with **ferti.lome Root Stimulator**.
- Pansies and other annuals with **Hi-Yield Blood and Bone Meal** and **ferti.lome 20-20-20 Water-Soluble plant food** to promote new blooms through winter.
- Existing ryegrass and fescue with **Covington's Premium Lawn Fertilizer**.
- Pecans at bud break with **Hi-Yield Zinc Sulfate**.

### BE ON WATCH:

- For grassy & some broadleaf weeds, apply **Hi-Yield Dimension pre-emergent** now to prevent most spring/summer weeds; use **Portrait** or **Gallery pre-emergent** for dandelion & tough broadleaf weeds.
- Control chickweed, dandelion, henbit and clover weeds with **ferti.lome Weed-Free Zone**.
- Aphids, spider mites, mealy bugs, scale and other problem insects on trees and shrubs can be controlled with **Bonide All Seasons** or **Hi-Yield Dormant Oil**.
- To kill borers and other insects in shrubs/trees, use **ferti.lome Insect Drench**. Protects for up to one year.
- For fireblight, apply **ferti.lome Fireblight Spray** when the tree or shrub starts flowering in the spring, or use **Bonide Copper Fungicide** at bud break to petal fall.
- Start spray program for fruit/ nut trees. Use **ferti.lome Triple Action** or **Bonide Fruit Tree Sprays**.
- 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.

*Covington's can delivery & plant your new trees for you...let us know if you want details.*