

JANUARY'S ORGANIC PLANNING GUIDE

This is a Great Time to Plant!

PLANT:

- **Trees and shrubs** so they will be well established by summer. Avoid planting cold-tender plants such as: gardenia, oleander, pittosporum and palms. **Transplant existing shrubs/trees** that need relocating.
- **Pecan and fruit trees, blackberries, and grapevines.**
- **Pansies, panolas, violas, cyclamen, snapdragons, dianthus, ornamental 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°.
- **Onions, potatoes, asparagus** later this month.

PRUNE:

- **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.
- **Shrubs/vines** that require heavy shearing and re-shaping (not spring flowering shrubs or vines e.g., hydrangea, quince, forsythia, spirea, azaleas, Caroline Jessamine, wisteria, etc.)
- **Fruit trees** to encourage stronger limbs. Peaches and plums to 8 or 9 ft. by removing vertical shoots. **Grapes** to remove 75% to 85% of their cane growth.

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**. **Organic rose food** for roses.
- Use **Nature's Guide Corn Gluten Meal 9-0-0** to feed turf and prevent weeds this winter.
- 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 cabbage & kale.
- Top dress landscape/flower beds with a 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.

Covington's can deliver and plant your new trees for you. Our professional planting service includes:

Preparing the planting site with compost & expanded shale

Fertilizing, mulching & watering in

Staking the tree if needed

We also provide a one year warranty!