

Insects:

- Now that it is getting colder, crickets, spiders, sow bugs, and stink bugs will be trying to get into your home. Keep them out by applying [Summit Mosquito and Gnat Barrier Spray](#) or [Bonide Eight](#) around the house. Also, fleas in the lawn can be controlled with these same products.

Amaryllis:

- Now is the time to shop for Dutch amaryllis. The best blooming amaryllis to buy are Orange Sovereign, Prince Carnival, Apple Blossom, Christmas Gift, and Susan. When planting a Dutch amaryllis, use a pot approximately 2" larger than the bulb. Use *Bacto light potting soil*, and water with luke warm water one time after potting. Keep the potted amaryllis in a warm place. Light is not important right after potting, but heat is.
- After the amaryllis' flower stem is 5" tall, resume watering the amaryllis. Every time you water the amaryllis, feed with [Seamate](#). Use an [electronic moisture meter](#) to determine when to water the amaryllis. If you do not use a moisture meter, you will probably over water the plant because the watering needs to be done based on the moisture near the roots. The moisture at the top of the soil is a poor indicator of the root moisture.
- When the flower stem is 5" tall, it needs to be moved to a cooler, well lit place to display and enjoy your amaryllis' bloom.

Flower bulbs:

- An interesting fall blooming flower bulb is the winter aconite. Plant this bulb this month, and it will bloom later this fall with beautiful yellow flowers. This bulb will re-bloom every fall.
- To keep existing clumps of daffodils and newly planted bulbs strong enough to re-bloom year after year, you need to fertilize them with [Garden Trust Fertilizer](#) this month or when planting new bulbs. Do not put *Garden Trust* in the planting hole. Place the *Garden Trust* on top of the bed after planting, and sprinkle the *Garden Trust* in areas that you believe bulbs have been previously planted.
- Do not rely on *Bonemeal* to feed your spring blooming Dutch flower bulbs. Cool soil temperatures do not allow organic fertilizers to be effective. Spring blooming bulbs need lots of fertilizer when rooting in the late fall and early spring to prepare for the spring bloom and subsequent years of re-blooming. *Bonemeal* is better used in spring as a supplemental fertilizer for the summer blooming flowers bulbs, like gladiolus or dahlias.
- Also check the pH with your *luster leaf Ph tester* when planting or growing flower bulbs. The average pH for spring flowering bulbs is 6.5. If the pH is too low add [Bonide Hydrated Lime](#).
- Dutch flower bulbs are now available at your local garden center. Select medium to large bulbs from bulk/loose displays. Do not select pre-packaged bags of bulbs because they are usually smaller sized bulbs. For instance, 12+up cm size tulips are sold in bulk displays; 11-12cm sized bulbs are often sold in pre-packaged packages.

Trees:

- Deciduous trees and shrubs that drop their leaves in the fall should be fed with [\*Plant Trust Professional Tree and Shrub Fertilizer\*](#) one time in October/November, preferably as soon as possible. For pear trees, use 1/2 ounce of *Plant Trust* for every foot of the height of the tree. For apple trees, use 1 ounce of *Plant Trust* for every foot of the height of the tree. For the remaining fruit, shade, flowering trees, and shrubs use 2 ounces of *Plant Trust* for every foot of the height of the plants. Remember these trees and shrubs only need to be fed *Plant Trust* one time a year.
- White pine trees that are over 15 feet and look dull are probably dying because of overwatering from the excessive rain, non-draining clay soils, or sprinkling systems. These trees are at risk for secondary infections such as pine tree borers or nematodes. If you are seeing holes in the trunk of the tree, it is likely that the tree is infected with pine tree borers. You will not see the damage from the nematodes because they work below the ground, damaging the tree's root system.
- Arborvitae, pines, and cypress that show yellowing of the inner needles/foliage do not need treated if the yellowing is less than 50%. This is normal and these yellow needles/foliage will drop. If the yellowing is more than 50%, it is an indication that the plant has not grown enough because it was under fed. Feed all evergreens in early spring with [\*Plant Trust Professional Tree and Shrub Fertilizer\*](#).