

January 04, 2018

#### Lawn:

- You should pre-apply gypsum to areas of your lawn that you anticipate will be exposed to snow mixed with salt. Also, treat the lawn areas along side where ice melters will be used (i.e near drive ways and sidewalks). Repeat these gypsum applications in early spring to avoid damage from the salt.
- Dormant Over-seeding
- Dormant seeding or over-seeding with [RTF water-saver tall fescue grass seed](#) or [HGT Blue grass seed](#), can be done once between now and the end of February. Cover the [RTF water-saver grass seed](#) with *Leaf Grow* or compost.
- When Dormant Over-seeding, Remember this spring, not to use [Dimension Crabgrass Preventer](#) to prevent crabgrass, because it will damage the newly germinated grass seed; only [Tupersan](#) 4.6G can be used to prevent summer crabgrass. ( don't use a tupersan fertilizer mix)
- Bonide weedbeater ultra or Fertilome weedfree zone, cannot be used to control broad leaf weeds this spring until the newly sown baby grass has been mowed twice.
- Make the spring [Turf Trust](#) application on the entire lawn in early spring according to the lawn schedule.
- DO NOT WORK ON THE LAWN WHILE THE LAWN IS FROZEN.
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#### Winter Tips:

- Spray snow shovels, snow blades, and discharge chute of snow blowers, and impellers of snow blowers with *Silicone* spray so that snow will not stick to these pieces of equipment.
- To increase traction on snowy and icy areas, apply course, sharp sand.
- Make sure pond deicer and bird bath warmers are working.
- To melt snow and ice in very cold temperatures use magnesium chloride as your ice melter.
- Do not use ice melters on new, chipped, cracked, or porous surfaces. ( concrete less than 2 years old)

#### House plants:

- Continue feeding house plants with [Seamate](#). Add one tablespoon of vinegar once a month when growing Citrus, jasmine, or gardenia plants to keep the pH down.
- Do not water orchids with ice cubes, use regular water and feed orchids with seamate fertilizer.
- Do not overwater house plants especially Christmas cactus, African violets, Jade, Chinese evergreen, and orchids.
- Houseplants that need to be re-potted should be re-potted in late February.
- Continue removing spent amaryllis flowers. Remove each flower after it has died. Then after all flowers have died on that stem, remove the entire stem. Do not cut leaves, let them grow. Use *Seamate* every time you water your amaryllis.
- Watch for mealybugs and aphids on indoor plants. Use [Bonide Systemic House Plant Insect Control](#) to control these insects.
- Mites can be controlled by using Summit Year - Round spray oil for houseplants.

Potted primroses are being sold at this time. If you purchase one, be aware that this plant will most likely not be able to survive indoors.

Potted forced tulips and hyacinths bought now, are not worth planting after blooming. They will not re-bloom the following year when planted in the garden. Daffodils can be planted outside, after they have bloomed indoors. They will not bloom next year, but they will bloom the year after that, if fed with Garden Trust.

## Vegetable Garden Planning

To successfully grow tomatoes throughout the summer, plant two separate crops one after the last frost date in the spring. The second planting should be in mid summer. This way you will be able to produce more tomatoes throughout the season. Make sure you feed the plants with Garden Trust after planting. Shop for disease resistant types of vegetable garden seeds. We do not recommend a lot of heirloom varieties.

## Trees:

Prune "Bleeder" trees ( Birch, Dogwood, Japanese and Red, and Sugar maple) as needed. No pruning should be done after late January, in the mid atlantic states, and for northern states late February. After these times the sap starts rising.

Any deciduous trees that were not fed last fall feed them this spring with Plant Trust.

## Cyclamen:

- Remove spent flowers from cyclamen by gripping the flower stem below the petals. Then twist the stem 90 degrees, and jerk the stem upwards. Feed the cyclamen with *Seamate* with every watering. Keep the plant in a cool, well-lit room. Never let the plant get too dry. This should ensure non-stop blooming until late March.
- The cyclamen can be planted outdoors out of the pot in mid-April in an area where there is morning sun. After planting, feed the cyclamen with [Plant Trust Flower and Bulb food](#) and continue to keep the plant well watered.

## Wild Life:

- Continue feeding wild birds.
- You can keep your bird bath de-iced by using a [Bird Bath Warmer](#). When using a *Bird Bath Warmer*, NEVER allow the bird bath to run dry because it will damage the bird bath warmer.

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