

January 18, 2018

Shrubs:

- (Weather Permitting) Flowering shrubs as, forsythia, weigela, deutzia, lilac, can be shaped in the winter, if you do not care about its flowers blooming this spring. If you do care about these flowers, then prune these shrubs after they have bloomed. ONLY prune when the temperature is above 32 degrees.
- If your flowering shrubs were not fed this past October, then feed them with Garden Trust in early spring regardless of your pruning schedule.

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 or where used (i.e near drive ways and sidewalks). Repeat these gypsum applications in early spring to avoid damage to your lawn and plants from the salt.

Broadleaf weeds in tall fescue, rye and blue grass lawns can not be treated with lawn weedkillers until spring. (when temps are over 55) Including wild garlic and onions. If the weather permits, now is the time to adjust your lawns [PH](#). Check the PH with a Luster Leaf Ph Tester . If the PH is too low then add lime or if the PH is too high use iron sulfate to lower it.

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 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.

Now is a good time to shop for house plants. Retail nurseries with green houses will have plenty of space to display and offer a good selection of house plants. Select low light tolerant and slow growing house plants. EX: Silver Queen Chinese Evergreen , Cast iron plant , Clivia , Corn Plant , Hawaiian Schefflera , or Golden Pothos.

- Jade plants dropping leaves are overwatered. Keep Jade plants in a location that will expose them to as much sun light as possible and keep the soil on the dry side. To help the Jade plant grow better, mix 1/2 Tbsp [SeaMate](#) with 1 Tbsp of Hydrogen peroxide per quart of water. Use this mixture every time you water the Jade plant.
- Keep mites under control by applying [Summit Year Round Spray Oil for House Plants](#).
- All house plants should be fed with [Seamate](#) every time that you water. Use 1/2 tablespoon of [Seamate](#) per quart of water.
- Keep African Violets away from cold windowsills. They do not tolerate the cold. The cold can lead to root rot.

- Do not over water house plants. Use a [Luster Leaf Moisture Meter](#) to determine the hydration level of your house plant soil.

Weeping fig houseplants need to be kept in a well lit place and keep the soil on the dry side. When summered over outside, they will be dropping lots of leaves indoor now. They will regrow new shade tolerant leaves. Feed them with [sea mate](#) when watering.

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 hyacinth bought now are not worth planting after blooming. They will not re-bloom the following year when planted in the garden.

Bulbs/Seeds

Crocus and Hyacinths not planted, can be discarded in to the trash. Tulips and Daffodils can still be planted as soon as possible outside or in containers.

Shop now for flower and vegetable seeds, but do not start the seeds too early indoors.

Tender Evergreens & Trees (Reminder)

Dwarf Nandina, Azalea, Jap. Holly, Chinese Holly, Gardenia, Fall and spring blooming Camellia, Crepe Myrtle, Fruiting fig, and Pomegranate trees.

These trees most likely will have root damage from the winter. As soon as temps allow treat them with and application of Nico's best Kick Start. In the early spring treat them three times, two weeks apart with Nico's best Kick Start to help regrow the root hairs.

This spring feed these listed plant with Garden Trust, for this season and Azaleas with Cotton seed meal and a 1/2 application of Garden Trust. Feed them the cotton seed meal again in mid summer.