

12/7/2017

#### Live Christmas Tree:

- Remember that live balled and burlaped Christmas trees stay indoor no longer than 5-7days, depending on the indoor temperature.
- Cut trees should already be set up and in water with prolong . The longer they sit at the lots the more they will be dried out and become a fire hazard.

#### Snow:

- Spray snow casters, snow shovels, discharge chutes of snow blowers, and impellers of snowblowers with Silicone Spray so that the snow will slide off during its use.

#### Bulbs:

- Any unplanted flower bulbs that have not been planted should be planted in an outdoor garden when possible. If you have snow, wait for a break in the weather and plant them then.

- Tulips can be planted outside in planters or pots; other flower bulbs need to be planted in the ground. Unplanted Dutch flower bulbs are useless after the winter, if not planted.

#### Shrubs:

Do not prune French Hydrangeas. Only remove spent flowers from them. In early spring you can remove dead canes, and feed the hydrangeas with 4 oz of Garden Trust per plant.

#### Trees:

- Do not prune crepe myrtles until early spring.

#### Lawn

End of year lawn care should include checking the lawn's pH with a Luster Leaf [Ph tester](#). The Ph should be between 6.3 - 6.7. If the PH is not in this range, follow instructions given with your pH tester. If the Ph is to low, spreading lime ([Bonide Turbo lime](#) will cover up to 5,000 sqft ) will raise the Ph. If the Ph is to high, spreading iron sulphate will lower the Ph. DO NOT use Aluminum sulfate.

Remove the remaining leaves from the lawn.

Extra compost can be lightly spread over your lawn to help improve your soil. The thawing and freezing of night frosts will work the organic matter into the soil.

Do not walk on frozen grass wait until after the night frost is gone. Wait until the afternoon to do work in the yard this winter.

Prevent road salt damage near the road and driveway with an application of granular [Gypsum](#).

Areas in your lawn with poor drainage can be aerated and [Ditomite](#) can be spread after aeration, to help with the drainage. Use one 25 lb bag of Ditomite for every 500 sqft and repeat this process for several years.

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#### Southern Lawns:

On St Augustine and Centipede grass, spur weed and Florida betony can be controlled with an application of Atrazene in December. And for Florida betony repeat the application in mid February. Do not use Atrazene on northern lawns. Always read labels for directions on use.

#### Houseplants:

- Weeping figs infected with scale, tropical hibiscus infected with aphids, and gardenia troubled with mealy bugs can be treated with Bonide Systemic Houseplant Insect Control.

- Indications of scale on weeping figs are: sticky floor or carpet surrounding the plant or brown scabs on leaves and branches.

- Bonide Systemic Houseplant Insect Control does not work for mites on houseplants. Instead for mites, use Summit Year Round Spray Oil

. In severe cases, mites will cause webbing on the houseplants. In milder cases, the leaves will be speckled or yellowish.

House plants that are susceptible to mites are: crotons, gardenias, scheffleras, prayer plants, Hawaiian tea plants, cast iron plants, and jasmine plants.

- Continue feeding your indoor plants with Seamate, especially holiday plants such as Christmas cactus, cyclamen, poinsettias, and orchids.

- Do not over water orchids. Keep orchids on the dry side. Use a Luster Leaf moisture meter to measure the moisture of the soil deeper in the pot. Most orchids are killed by over watering. When an orchid is finished blooming, do not remove the entire flower stem. Cut the flower stem right below the last spent flower. New flower spikes will develop on the remaining flower stem.

Amaryllis flowers that are spent should be cut off. When all the flowers on the stalk are finished, remove the entire stem. A second or third stem should produce more flowers, depending on the bulb (a 3 year-old large bulb will likely have more flower stems). Do not cut the amaryllis leaves. Do not over water the amaryllis. Feed with Seamate with every watering.

#### Roses

Make a soil mound up around the rose stem to a height of 6-8 inches to protect them from frost damage.

#### Camellias, Nelly Stevens, and Buford Holly:

Camellia and Oyster scale can be treated with Summit year round spray oil now.

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