

April 24, 2012

Flowers:

- Sweet potato vine, angelonia, and shade impatiens are very cold sensitive plants. Do not plant them too early. Wait until the soil is 65 °F, or warmer. Do not plant based upon air temperature. After these plants are planted do not overwater with cold water. Keep these plants on the dry side. Now use plenty of *Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss* as a soil conditioner when planting these plants. Do not use bagged top soil, compost, or planting soil when planting these plants.
- When buying calibrachoa or mixed pots/baskets containing calibrachoa, do not use fertilizer with high phosphate percentages (middle number). Feed these plants with [*Jacks Classic Petunia Feed*](#).

Vegetables:

- Okra and eggplants are very cold sensitive plants. Do not plant or sow these plants too early. Make sure the soil temperature is 67 °F or above before planting. Do not over water with cold water after planting.
- Use red rhubarb swiss chard as a colorful, edible, border plant.

Lawn:

- Zoysia lawns are to only be fed one application of [*Turf Trust*](#). Do not apply the *Turf Trust* until the zoysia lawn is over 70% green.

Roses:

- Holes in hardy hibiscus and rose leaves are caused by rose slugs. All roses are susceptible to rose slugs including knock out roses. This can be prevented by making an application of [*Bonide Annual Tree and Shrub Insect Control*](#) now.
- If you have not already done so, be sure to feed your roses with 5 ounces of [*Plant Trust Flower and Bulb Fertilizer*](#).
- Roses are often eaten by deer. Use *I Must Garden Deer Repellent* to prevent this. Repeat this three times, every other week.

Shrubs:

- When planting azaleas or rhododendron, do not use bagged top soil, compost, or planting soils. Only use *Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss* as a soil amendment.
- Never plant trees or shrubs deeper than the depth that they were in, in its previous container.
- English boxwoods turning rusty brown or orange are likely planted in wet, poorly draining soil. They are likely suffering from nematodes or phytophthora root rot. To treat the boxwood, start by testing the pH of the soil with a [*Luster Leaf Ph tester*](#). The ideal pH is 6.7-7. When the pH is too low, use *Bonide Hydrate Lime*. If drainage/wet soil is a problem, then drill 18" deep holes with a 1.5" caliber earth auger. Make these holes 10" apart around the sick looking boxwood. Then fill these holes with [*Diotomite*](#). Feed the boxwood with *Plant Trust Tree and Shrub Fertilizer*, but if [*Bonide Hydrated Lime*](#) was used, then wait to feed the boxwood for two weeks or for two heavy rains after the *Bonide Hydrated Lime* application. Continue to monitor the pH every six

months. Avoid planting boxwoods in poorly draining soils. If you have wet soil, plant other plants that will better tolerate the wet soil.

Maple and Sycamore Trees:

- Maple and sycamore trees that are suffering from dying leaves likely have anthracnose. Treat by applying [*Copper Fungicide*](#) at bud break. Repeat at 7-10 day intervals during the spring.
- When you have a history of anthracnose in these trees, then make an application of *Copper Fungicide* at bud break and repeat at 7-10 day intervals twice to decrease the likelihood of future infections.
- Make sure these trees are fed with *Plant Trust Tree and Shrub Fertilizer*. When the weather gets warmer and dryer, these trees will have more energy to regrow new shoots and leaves.