

JANUARY 2014

The GREENLEAF



NEWSLETTER

HOURS: MON - SAT 8:00 A.M. TO 5:30 P.M.
CLOSED SUNDAYS IN JANUARY

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New Years Resolutions for Your Garden!

With the new year upon us, it is time to put your previous gardening trials and tribulations behind you and get prepared for another growing season. Here are some actions you can take immediately in order for your garden to be beautiful for years to come!



By Cameron
McCauley

Use this time of the year to get out and prepare your garden for the spring growing season. The winter months are an excellent time to plant new shrubs and trees as well as perennials. Wouldn't you rather tend to the garden wearing a jacket on a nice 50 degree day instead of baking in the June sun?

The remaining winter months also provide you with the opportunity to get all of your 'spring cleaning' done. If you have trees in your yard in need of a haircut, now is the perfect time to trim them accordingly. Shrubs and perennials can also handle a significant whack-back before spring gets here. Also, make sure you have a good layer of mulch in your beds to protect cold tender plants, as we still have a few more months of frost before spring gets here.

Be bold with your gardening choices this year; don't be afraid to step outside of your comfort zone. It is never too early to install new shrubs, trees and perennials in your garden, and doing it now will reward you with some beautiful spring color.

Take this opportunity to expand your garden knowledge (or pass on the information you know to a less-experienced gardener). Our knowledgeable staff is here to answer any questions you have headed into the busy spring season. Try and address the 'problem area' in the yard now, whether it be poor soil or weeds everywhere, so that your garden can reap the benefits in the spring.

TIMELY HINTS



By Rob Wier

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off

Plant ... Trees! Shrubs and perennials can all be planted now as well. We've encouraged people for years to plant year-round, and more people are taking advantage of our winter season to plant. Now is also a good time to **transplant trees, shrubs, and perennials**. So move that Crape Myrtle instead of chopping it the house each year. If not in the ground already, you can plant tulip bulbs now.

Prune ... Shrubs to shape if needed. Major trimming on trees can be done now if needed. If you're unsure what to prune and what not to prune, a nursery associate can help clarify.

Fertilize ... Pansies every two weeks with **Bloodmeal**. Use **Superthrive** on any newly planted trees monthly.

Water ... Hand water newly planted flowers or plants weekly with a hose. Keep your sprinkler on Manual Mode and only water if we get less than one-half inch of rain every two weeks this month. Remember, your landscape requires hardly any water during the dormant months (Dec-Feb). Conserve that water for later this summer.

Pests ... Apply **Dormant Oil** on trees shrubs to control scale especially if you've had it on them before, such as Crape Myrtles.

Spray existing, noticeable and pesky weeds in your dormant turf with a **Vinegar and Oil Solution** on sunny, warmer days as an organic post emergent weed control. (Mix undiluted 20% Vinegar with 2oz. Orange Oil and 2 drops liquid soap.)



Other Bits and Pieces ...

- * Mulch bare soil.
- * Put leaves in compost pile.
- * Cover blooming Pansies and color bowls with N-Sulate frost cloth during cold spells below 25° F.
- * Start doing garden planning so you'll be ready for spring. Spring is only about 10 weeks away! Our design and installation service will begin to build a wait time so get on the schedule now!



Smiling Faces Wanted For Spring Part-Time

If you love gardening and thrive in an upbeat, service-focused, outdoor environment, we have an opportunity for you this spring. We will be adding to our part-time nursery sales staff. Here is what we will be looking for:

- * A smiling face and helpful attitude is a **must**.
- * Local Plant knowledge is a plus.
- * Gardening and retail experience very helpful.
- * Weekend availability especially helpful.
- * Non-smokers will be preferred.

If this describes you, please come in and fill out an application or you can fax your resume to ATTN:Randy at our fax line: 972-377-2022, or email to randy@shadesofgreeninc.com and use 'employment' in the subject line. We plan to interview prospects during January, hire and train staff in February, and have you BUSY in March through May!

Not the First, Not the Last Ice Storm



By Rob Wier

The Ice storm of early December 2013 caused a lot of damage to local trees and property. As far as ice storms go, I've seen much worse if that gives you any comfort.

In December 1978, as a recent graduate of Aggieland, I was literally hungry for work until New Years Day, January 1st, 1979. A horrific ice storm crippled the Metroplex. With a chainsaw and helper, I trimmed ice damaged trees until March of that year.

Here are some thoughts and pointers to consider in the aftermath of an ice storm.

- * Wait and see – Plants/Trees are very resilient and typically bounce back from ice damage. Even though the tops and branches may have been broken, the whole root system remains intact despite harsh winter weather. When new growth returns in the spring, that root system will sustain the plant's rapid re-growth. Sure, it may take years for a tree to fill out a void left in the canopy, but that is certainly a more feasible option than removing it and starting over with a new, smaller tree.



- * Seek experienced advice – Does your yard guy know about trees? Arborists deal with trees everyday, and possess valuable knowledge and experience; most don't mow lawns. If you had a tree that was completely destroyed such as a Bradford Pear, consider replacement varieties for your space. Our staff would be glad to assist with choices and options. Bring in pictures of the space so we can visualize what you have to make the best recommendations for a replacement tree.



- * Most shrubbery and perennials will make it after the thaw. If you made poor choices and planted cold tender plants that don't return in the spring, chock it up as a learning experience. Mother Nature has a way of testing our choices.

- * Container plantings that were covered with a frost cloth seemed to make it with little damage. A few days of sunshine and the blooms are perking up again.

North Texas is poised geographically to have the right conditions of cold and rain to create severe icing.

Another challenge of Texas gardening... not the first, not the last!

Plant of the Month

By Cameron McCauley

Possumhaw Holly

Ilex decidua

Berries! If you find yourself yearning for some color in the dreary winter months, this ornamental holly might be your answer.

The Possumhaw stays smaller than most Yaupon varieties, reaching about 10-12 feet in height and can handle sun or shade.

While the Possumhaw is a deciduous holly, it keeps its red berries through the winter months, giving your garden a stark contrast of color from your normal winter evergreens. The berries also attract beautiful birds in the winter months! A fantastic Texas native simply for its uniqueness!



January Special

Fruit Tree SALE

\$5 OFF	5 Gallon
\$15 OFF	10 Gallon
\$30 OFF	30 Gallon

Offer Expires January 31, 2014

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