



Monthly Tips to Help You Care For and Maintain Your Landscape

Pruning:

Now is the time to prune Red Oak, Live Oak, Cedar Elms, Honey Locust and fruit trees. Pruning now will allow light and air to reach all branches and maximize production on limbs that bear fruit.

Fruit trees are spring blooming plants that are pruned in their dormant season because we want the maximum production of harvestable high quality fruit, not blooms. Peaches, apples, pears and most fruits produce more blooms than they can support for fruit production. If all the blooms produced are allowed to mature to fruit, very few would be large enough to use. So we use pruning to keep trees at the height we want, keep them open to light and air to keep the tree producing new wood each year throughout the tree, not just at the top.

Spring blooming plants like Magnolias, Azaleas, Redbud and Texas Mountain Laurel, if in need of pruning, should be pruned in summer right after they bloom.



Roses:

Roses, except climbing Roses, can be pruned near the end of the month.

The best time to plant bare root or container Roses in our area is mid-February (right around Valentine's day). Remove any dead and diseased wood about one inch below the damaged areas. Also remove any weak shoots and branches that rub together. Make the cuts slanted toward the outside at a 45 degree angle just above a strong outer bud, so that the new growth forms in the right direction. Spray Roses with fungicide and mulch them. When planting Roses, pick a sunny spot with a minimum six to eight hours of sun. Here in San Antonio, Roses do well if they have a little afternoon shade protection, but they really do like full sun. Bare root plants should be set out as soon after you purchase them as possible.

Roses can be grown successfully in containers.

Don't skimp on pot size or quality - repotting thorny Roses is difficult and can be painful.

Gardening:

You can also plant Broccoli, Onions, Cabbage, Radishes, English Peas and other cool weather vegetables this month.

Planting Flowers and Trees:

Bare root fruit and Pecan as well as cool season annuals, such as Pansies, Petunias, Snapdragons and Alyssums can be planted in February too. Water and fertilize winter annual bedding plants.

Weed Control:

Apply pre-emergent herbicide to your lawn to prevent summer weeds. Apply around the middle of the month. Be very careful and follow label directions so you kill only the weeds.

Apply Pesticides:

Be sure to check ornamentals for aphids and spray if you find any. Fruit and nut trees can be sprayed with dormant oil if the temperature is between 40 and 70 degrees. Spray Euonymus to control scale. All of these are preventive sprays to guard against spring problems.

Lawn/Grass:

Scalp Bermuda and St. Augustine lawns late in the month to remove brown stubble before spring green-up.

LANDSCAPE BEAUTY

A beautiful and well maintained landscape is enjoyed by many people every day and adds to the quality of our lives.

Instinctively and aesthetically, we all need the proximity of plants. Not only do we survive because plants provide food and maintain the oxygen level for all animal life on Earth, but we also respond to plants as attractive growing things which help satisfy our desire for beauty. We find ourselves drawn to them because they represent the power of growth which we can help and of which we can become part. Plants are truly essential to our well being.

As a Landscape Contractor, Green Grass' main aim is to provide our Customers with the very best in landscaping and grounds maintenance services. We here at Green Grass are proud of the small jobs as well as the large ones, and proud of the high quality landscaping and maintenance that is accomplished by Green Grass personnel.

Also, to better appreciate the beauty of landscaping, Green Grass provides seminars for groups and organizations and provides landscaping literature, such as this newsletter, to anyone requesting it.

With your help, we would like to work towards keeping San Antonio green, beautiful and healthy!

Have a Glorious Day and Enjoy the Outdoors,

Francisco Suarez-Pella, Owner
Green Grass Inc.