



"Clippings" Clippings

Monthly Tips to Help You Care For and Maintain Your Landscape



- We usually have Poinsettias in our homes at Christmas. Be sure the soil remains moist, but don't let water remain beneath the pot in the saucer or wrapping. Too much water will cause the roots to rot. Keep the plant out of drafts – both hot and cold. Place Poinsettias in good light, but not direct sun.
- If you are buying a cut Christmas tree, saw off about 2 inches from the bottom and place the tree's base in water. Check the water level every day.
- Remember not to burn Pine or Juniper wood in your fireplace. The wood contains highly inflammable substances that are hard to control.
- If you plan to prune Holly or evergreens, wait until you are ready to make your Christmas decorations and use the trimmings for Holiday decorating. Remember to keep Holly berries and Mistletoe out of the reach of small children.
- Remove mistletoe from Cedar Elms, Hackberries and other shade trees before it gets a stronghold on them.
- Major pruning of evergreens and shade trees can begin once they have had on freeze.
- Established trees, shrubs and native trees can be transplanted into your landscape this month.
- Prune summer flowering shrubs and vines, such as Crepe Myrtles, Altheas and Trumpet Creepers, to maintain desired shape. Major pruning of evergreens and shade trees can begin once they've had one hard freeze.
- During December you can plant berrying shrubs, including Hollies, dwarf and regular Burford, Nellie R. Stevens, Willowleaf, Yaupon, Nandinas and Beautyberry. Also, Purple Wintercreeper Euonymus, Cleyera and Mahonias can be planted now for winter color.
- Spray Camellias, Hollies and Euonymus for scale. Also, watch houseplants and greenhouse crops for signs of scale, mealy bugs, whiteflies and mites.
- It's still not too late to plant Pansies, Dianthus or Snapdragons to add color to your landscape. Many people also prefer to plant ornamental Kales.
- Spring flowering perennials and Pansies can be fertilized now with a high phosphorous fertilizer.
- Water your yard every two weeks if we don't have rain.
- Be sure there's enough mulch in beds and tree rings.

Please call the professionals at Green Grass if you would like us to provide any of these services.



“WINTER ANNUALS”

When cool weather arrives, it's time to plant our winter annuals. What better way to brighten up gloomy winter days than with the beautiful colors of Pansies, Snapdragons, Larkspur, Calendula, Alyssum, flowering Kale or Dianthus?

Pansies are the most popular winter annual. They can be used in large formal plantings, as a border, in planter boxes or as filler plants in rock gardens. They look so delicate, but are among the hardiest of winter annuals. Pansies have a pleasant fragrance and come in a variety of sizes and colors. Protect Pansies from slugs with slug and snail bait.

If you have problems with deer, choose Snapdragons. Apparently the Snapdragon is not a favorite food for this beautiful but destructive animal.

Pinks or Dianthus are another old-fashioned annual that has a nice fragrance. The blooms are red, white, pink or bi-color. Most varieties reach a height of 14 inches.

Flowering Kale make an unusual bedding plant that will last into late spring. The plants are uniform, disciplined growers that do well in a formal arrangement. Get the Peacock variety if you like a fringed look. Kale is even more cold resistant than Pansies.

Calendulas are yellow or orange with a daisy-like shape. Mass them in beds for a warming effect in the landscape.

Winter annuals should be planted in a raised bed or a well-drained site where the soil has been worked 12 inches deep. Avoid poorly drained soils or you will likely have fungal root rot problems. Prepare the planting site with one pound of a slow release lawn fertilizer or low nitrogen (6-7 percent) preparation per 50 square feet of bed.





House Plants

Scientists in search of an air purification system for space stations have come up with one very low-tech option: houseplants.

When they placed a Spider plant, Golden Pothos or Syngonium in a chamber filled with formaldehyde gas, the most common pollutant, levels of the gas were reduced by at least half within 6 hours. The Spider plant was the most effective air cleaner, removing more than 90% of the formaldehyde within one day.

With Christmas right around the corner, a living gift is a wonderful idea and will help clean the air in our homes. Several plants make great gifts: Hawaiian Schefflera is a superb, long-lived houseplant; the Norfolk Island Pine grows slowly but steadily and can thrive for years; Crotons provide constant color and grow fast; and of course, there is the Poinsettia.



*Green Grass Inc wishes you and your family a
Blessed Holiday and a Happy New Year!*

Francisco and April Suarez-Pella