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JULY GARDENING TIPS (Conventional & Organic)

PLANT:

- **Annuals & Tropicals**- Angelonia, pentas, zinnias, scaevola, vinca, moss rose, sweet potato vine, purslane, begonias, hibiscus, bougainvillea, mandevilla, esparanza, impatiens, coleus, caladiums, lantana & more.
- **Perennials**-Pincushion, salvia, coreopsis, daylily, blackfoot daisy, hardy hibiscus, gaura, butterfly bush, coneflower, Turk's cap, rudbeckia, Texas primrose, skullcap, coral bells, oxalis, ferns, hostas & more.
- **Trees, shrubs, vines, ornamental grasses & groundcovers** (handwatering a must in the summer).
- Choose **Crape Myrtles** now while in bloom for color and mature size you want (shrub & tree-form available).
- **Bermuda seed or sod, St. Augustine & Zoysia sod** -Water daily first few weeks while getting established.
- **Tomato and pepper transplants when available later in month; watermelon and pumpkins from seed.**
- Use our **Covington's Potting Soil** containing peat moss, screened compost, screened pine mulch, rice hulls, a wetting agent, organic fertilizer (derived from bone & blood meal), and an organic bio stimulant Vitazyme. This potting soil will need less water than conventional all peat mixes, and with the organic fertilizer & bio stimulants you will be able to grow the largest flowers and the biggest tomatoes in town!

PRUNE:

- Spent flowers, leaves & seedheads on **perennials**. Cut leggy **annuals** back to keep them compact.
- **Shrubs** to reshape. Dead wood & lower limbs in **trees** to let more sun on lawn and landscape plantings. To prevent the spread of oak wilt, prune **Red Oaks or Live Oaks** in late summer or early fall, or use pruning paint on cuts if pruning in spring. Prune spent **Vitex & Crape Myrtle blooms** to encourage reblooming.
- **Mow lawn** regularly at recommended height (1½" for Bermuda; 2-2½" for St. Augustine and Zoysia).
- **Fireblight damaged trees/shrubs** to remove damaged limbs. Prune below damage into healthy tissue. Sanitize pruners in bleach solution after each cut. Spray trees & shrubs with **Bonide Copper Fungicide** after pruning.
- **Prune Blackberries** after harvest (new canes to 3'; cut canes that bore fruit this year to the ground)

WATER:

- **Container plants & flower beds in sun need daily watering. Water shrubs & trees less frequently but deeply to produce hardier, better rooted plants. Supplement sprinkler watering with hand watering to make sure plants receive adequate water. Inspect sprinkler system regularly to ensure it is working properly. Use soaker hoses when possible or install drip irrigation for more efficient water usage.**
- To improve water retention, add **Soil Moist** & **Expanded Shale** (holds 38% of its weight in water), or **use Covington's Soil Builder** which contains compost, greensand, and expanded shale, and will break up clay, add nutrients, retain moisture & revitalize microbial activity.
- Top dress landscape/flower beds with 2-3 inch layer of **mulch** to help retain moisture, reduce weeds, and maintain soil temperature. Treat lawn & landscaped areas with **Hydretain** for greater soil moisture retention.
- Trees installed for less than two years must have special care to ensure a strong and healthy root system. See our Plant Article on **Tree Care for the First Two Years** on our website or come by and pick one up.

CONVENTIONAL FERTILIZATION, WEED, DISEASE & PEST CONTROL SOLUTIONS

FERTILIZE:

- Flowers, veggies and herbs with **Covington's Premium Flower & Garden Fertilizer** or use **ferti-lome Gardeners Special 11-15-11** for your herbs and vegetables.
- Newly planted trees and shrubs every 3-4 weeks for the first year with **ferti.lome Root Stimulator**.
- Trees, shrubs, vines, groundcovers, and perennials with **Covington's Special Tree and Shrub Fertilizer**.
- Bermuda, St. Augustine and Zoysia with **Covington's Premium Lawn Fertilizer 21-7-14** or **Covington's High Performance all nitrogen 25-0-0 fertilizer**.
- Roses with **ferti.lome Rose Food** or **ferti.lome Rose Food with Systemic Insecticide**.
- Iron-deficient plants with **Max Green Iron 22/60** or **Ferti.lome Soil Acidifier Plus Iron**.

- Strengthen foliage & increase production on fruit/pecan trees with **ferti.lome Fruit, Citrus & Pecan Fertilizer.**

WEEDS & DISEASE CONTROL:

- Spot treat broadleaf weeds such as dandelion, henbit & clover in St. Augustine or Bermuda grass with **ferti.lome Weed Out**; Spot treat nutsedge and crabgrass now with **Bonide Sedge Ender.**
- Apply **ferti.lome F-Stop** to St. Augustine for fungal infections including Gray Leaf Spot and Brown Patch. For added protection, spread ½ inch layer of **Canadian Brown Sphagnum Peat Moss** on infected area & water in.
- Use **ferti.lome Systemic Fungicide** for powdery mildew, disease & fungi on hawthorn, photinias, roses, etc.

INSECT & PEST CONTROL:

- For bagworms, tent caterpillars & cankerworms, use **Bonide Eight Insecticide** or **Hi-Yield 55% Malathion.**
- Use **Bonide Insect and Grub Control Granules** for grub & cinch bug control.
- Control fire ant mounds and infestations with **Hi-Yield Bug Blaster Granules** or **Extinguish Fire Ant Bait.**
- Use **Hi-Yield Slug & Snail Killer** to control slugs and snails on flowers and foliage. Use **Bonide Slug Magic** in areas near pets and children's play areas.
- Control aphids, spider mites, mealy bugs, thrips and other problem insects w/**Bonide Systemic Insect Control.**
- For best control of scale & to kill borers in the trunks of trees, use **Bonide or Ferti.lome Systemic Insect Drench** which protects for months.
- Continue spray program for fruit and nut trees. Use **ferti.lome Triple Action** or **Bonide Fruit Tree Spray.**
- For grasshoppers, use **Hi-Yield 55% Malathion or Bayer Vegetable & Garden Insect Spray w/Cyfluthrin.**

ORGANIC FERTILIZATION, WEED, DISEASE & PEST CONTROL SOLUTIONS

FERTILIZE:

- Newly planted trees and shrubs with **Bioform Liquid Fish & Seaweed with Sulfur** to help prevent transplant shock, increase beneficial microorganisms, and encourage root development.
- Flowers and perennials w/**Happy Frog Fruit and Flower.**
- Turf, shrubs, and trees with **Make it Green 4-1-2.**
- Vegetable garden with **Happy Frog Tomato & Vegetable fertilizer.**
- Use **Corn Gluten Meal 9-0-0** to feed turf and prevent weeds.
- Spread **Dry Molasses** to enhance weed control and encourage healthy soil.
- Apply **Garrett Juice Plus** once a month to your landscape to increase beneficial micro-organisms in the soil and to reduce the need for water.
- Add **Texas Greensand** for deep greening in lawns, trees and landscape plants.

WEEDS & DISEASE CONTROL:

- Spot treat grassy and broadleaf weeds with **20% Vinegar.** Add 2 oz. of Orange Oil per gallon of vinegar to enhance the kill on weeds and grasses.
- Apply **Horticultural Corn Meal** on landscape plants, vegetables, and turf grass for disease control.

INSECT & PEST CONTROL:

- Repel mosquitoes with **Cedarcide granules or spray Bonide Mosquito Beater w/Cedar & Citronella oils.** Use **Mosquito Bits** with BTI to kill mosquito larvae in standing water. **Mosquito Bits** also control fungus gnats in flower beds and containers.
- Also use **ferti.lome Come and Get It Spinosad Bait** for protection from ants & use 3-4 oz. of **Orange Oil** per gallon of water as a mound drench. Spray **Orange Oil** in areas with pillbugs, sow bugs, ants and spiders.
- Control slugs & snails with **Bonide Slug Magic or Sluggo Plus w/Spinosad.**
- **Nature's Guide Diatomaceous Earth** for crawling insects/grasshoppers, or use **Nolo bait** for grasshoppers.
- For bugs & fungus use **ferti.lome Triple Action Plus** containing Neem Oil. Safe to use on fruit trees.
- Spray **Bonide All Season Oil** for scale on holly, crape myrtles & fruit trees. *In hot weather, use these oil products in early morning or evening!*
- Use **Bird X Netting** to protect ripening fruit from birds.
- Use eco-friendly **Armadillo Repellent** in a convenient hose end sprayer to get rid of armadillos.
- To deter pesky flower-munching rabbits, use **Rabbit Scram and/or Bonide Repels-All spray**
- For bagworms, tent caterpillars & cankerworms on shrubs and trees, use **ferti.lome Caterpillar Killer Spray with BT at dusk or Spinosad.**