

THINGS TO DO FOR NOVEMBER, 2017

PRUNING –Some shrubs can be pruned if needed for desired shape or size before the end of the month. Your hurricane damaged trees and shrubs should be trimmed by now. Keep a record on your calendar of when and what you pruned and fertilized. Use cinnamon after pruning orchids.

PROPAGATION – No single method of propagation works for every plant all the time. Make a cutting 4 to 6 inches long. Put directly in water or moisten the cuttings immediately by wrapping them in a damp paper towel and place them in a plastic bag. Store them in a cool place out of direct sunlight until you can get back to them. Remove flowers buds, seed heads and all the leaves from the lower half of the cutting. On the bottom of the stem, make a fresh cut ¼ inch below a node. Dip the bottom inch in a rooting hormone. Tap off the excess. In a 4 inch pot the rooting media may contain peat moss, perlite and coarse sand. 50-50 mix of peat moss and perlite, Pro Mix from Universal Enterprises in Pompano Beach, or use Lamberts soilless mix from Home Depot. Insert 5 cuttings in medium to ½ or more the length of the stem, 2 inches apart and lightly firm around the stems. After they have rooted and show signs of growth, fertilize with ½ strength water soluble fertilizer. When the roots have grown out the bottom of the pot they can be potted up or put in the ground. The best moisture meter, is placing your finger in the soil.

INSECTS – For slugs and snails, I use Sluggo bait or a good smash with the hoe, after a rain. For ants in pots or in the house use Raid ant bait trays or Terro. On plants use a hard spray of water on insects. I use my hands to scrape off scale and hand pick hornworm caterpillars. Safer Soap works well when you follow up one week later.

PLANTING –Buy plants and trees now before the Holidays. Always have plants in pots to fill in the bare spots where you need them. I like Miracle Gro POTING MIX, with a little added perlite. Get an instant garden by purchasing vegetables plants and herbs. It is time to plant impatiens, if you like hand watering every day. Some flowers to plant now are wax begonias, crossandra, gailardia, pentas, sage, New Guinea impatiens, kalanchoe, moss rose, portulaca, vinca, tropical milkweed, geranium, ornamental pepper and my favorite, coleus. Bulbs to plant now are; onion sets, amaryllis, crinum, zephyranthes, and elephant ear.

FEEDING – Fertilize your lawn now, if you didn't last month. It will stay green and hardy through the winter. This is an excellent time to re-sod. Place 2 to 3 inches of mulch in the flower beds and in non-turf areas. Too much water can cause fungal disease in lawns, on vegetable plants and cause fruit to split. Turn sprinklers on only when needed. Use time released or ½ strength water soluble fertilizer in potted plants. Poinsettias can be fed now if the foliage is light green. Keep the light off them at night, so they bloom in time for Christmas. For palms use Lesco palm food from Home Depot or John Deere. Put a little Black Cow manure on plants that show signs of yellowing. On plants that look like they could use some perking up, spread Miracle Gro GARDEN SOIL around them. Fertilizing should be over by the end of the month.

BLOOMING – Bougainvillea, floss silk, cassia, Chinese hat, orchid tree, geiger tree, mussaenda, ixora, orchid, shrimp plant, pentas, periwinkle, marigold, impatiens, petunia, geranium, pansy, wax begonia, dragonwing begonia, blue daze, angel trumpet, Florida hydrangea, snapdragon, begonia, buttercup, crossandra, crown-of-thorns, ginger, helconia, ruellia, hibiscus, thryallis, bird of paradise, rose, golden senna, West Indian shower tree, golden rain tree, salvia, firespike, magnolia, scarlet red cloak, Hong Kong orchid, turk's cap, fire bush, porter weed, torenia, lantana, crinum lily, chenille, Mexican sunflower, dombeya shrubs, Melampodium, plumbago, and yesterday today and tomorrow. If your plants are not flowering they might need more light or it could have been the 36 hours of continuous wind by hurricane Maria.

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