



NEW LEAF News

March
2019

ADA STORE
0395 S.R. 235 – 2½ miles North of Ada
419-634-0351

Visit our **NEW** website at:
www.newleafgardencenter.com

KENTON STORE
927 E. Columbus, Rt. 67 by Shopping Plaza
419-675-2718

Winter Hours thru March 10: M-W-F 9-4, Sat. 9-1, Sun. Closed
Early Spring Hours starting March 11: M-W-Thurs-F 9-5, Sat. 9-2, Tues & Sun. Closed
Tues. & Sat. hours may change later in the month depending on weather – Please CALL for hours.

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When do I Prune my Plants?

When do I Spray my Fruit Trees?

Those are some of the questions many of our customers ask us each spring! Here are some answers to those early spring questions or some you may have forgotten to ask!

SO, WHAT SHOULD I PRUNE? It depends on the type of plant!

Evergreens can be pruned anytime they are not frozen. Most evergreens put on most of their growth in the spring from mid-April to mid-June. If you trim early in the spring, you will need to trim again early summer. Some evergreens, if trimmed while the new growth is soft, will leave brown tips. So, if not trimmed early, wait until the new growth has hardened off in late June. Remember to trim plants to their natural shape. Shearing into squares was popular years ago, but once a plant has been sheared this way, it's hard to change it.

Fruit trees should be pruned while they are dormant, before they start to leaf out. Remove any dead wood, maintain the shape of the plant and remove branches that rub together. Thinning of fruit trees overall and in the middle allow better light and air circulation to the center of the tree which helps control diseases. Less branches means there is less for the roots to feed and the results are larger fruit.

Flowering Shrubs are the most confusing. Here is the Rule of Thumb:

*If the plant flowers in early spring (April – May) prune **after** it has bloomed.* These plants set buds on previous years growth, or old wood. These plants include Dogwood, Lilac, Forsythia, Magnolia, Viburnum and Macrophylla Hydrangeas. If these plants are trimmed in the late fall they will have very few or no flowers in the Spring! So, wait till after they have bloomed in the spring and trim or shape as needed. The best method is to trim out individual branches to thin the plant. This lets more sunlight into the center of the plant.

If the plant blooms in the summer (late May– Sept.) you can trim in the early spring. These plants bloom on current years growth: Butterfly Bush, Cotoneaster, Weigeila, Rose of Sharon, and summer blooming Hydrangeas. Trim them back and shape them as needed. Remove any old or dead wood. Plants such as Spirea and Potentilla will bloom continuously through the season when given a light trim.

More about Hydrangeas. The Macrophylla varieties that bloom late spring, bloom off the previous year's growth. These have blue or pink flowers. These can die back in hard winters. New macrophyllas, such as Bloomstruck, bloom in late spring on last years growth and then bloom again on the new growth later in the summer. These need to be pruned after the first blooms have faded. Other varieties of hydrangeas, the paniculatas such as Limelight, Bobo, Quickfire and Pinky Winky, often have dried flowers hanging on all winter. These should be trimmed back and shaped in the spring. Quercifolia or Oakleaf Hydrangeas can also be trimmed in the spring.

Don't stress! If you prune wrong, you won't hurt the plant, just the flowers. You will know better next year!

SO, WHEN AND WHAT DO I SPRAY MY FRUIT TREES WITH? It depends on the type of tree you have!

Fruit trees need to be sprayed at specific times to get the best results. These are the stages: (See illustration below)

Dormant – This stage is before the tree starts to leaf out in early spring. This is when you use **Bonide All-Seasons Spray Oil** to help kill any over-wintering insects or eggs on your trees. Spray the trunk and branches. If you had Peach Leaf Curl on your peaches, or a problem with Scab on your Apples, or Cankers on your Plum trees, spray with **Bonide Copper Fungicide** or **Bonide Fung-onil**. Fung-onil works especially good on Stone Fruits (Peach, Apricot, Plum etc.). Spray only when it is above 40°F and will stay above 40°F for 24 hours.

Remove any leaves or debris from under the tree that may be harboring over-wintering pests. Prune out any branches of Plum trees that have canker and burn them. Also remove any Apple or Pear tree branches that have died back due to Fire Blight. Also, too much nitrogen fertilizer causes excessive growth that makes it more susceptible to Fire Blight.

Green Tip to Pre-Pink stage: This is when the swollen buds just start to open and show green up to the time you can see the pink flower buds show color. Start the first application of general Fruit Tree Spray. Most general sprays contain 1-2 insecticides and a fungicide. If you wish to just use one or the other, use **Bonide Eight**, **Sevin**, or any other general insecticide. Spray with any fungicide listed for fruit trees.

Bloom Stage: While the tree is in bloom, DO NOT spray with any insecticides. This is when the bees are pollinating the blossoms and spraying now will kill the bees. If you did not apply a fungicide before,

you can apply now, as it will not kill bees. If you have Apples or Pears that have Fire Blight, now is the time to spray to prevent further infection. Fire Blight is a bacteria, so spray with a product containing Streptomycin or **Bonide Copper Fungicide**.

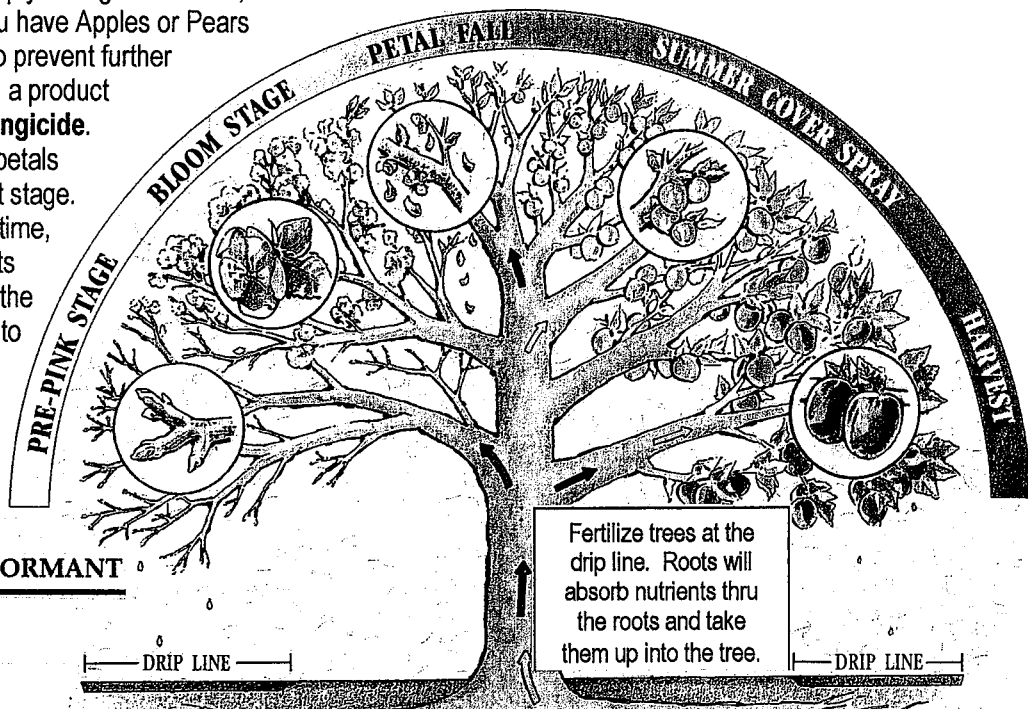
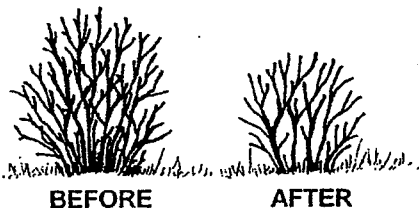
Petal Fall, and Summer Cover – After all the petals have fallen, you are at the small to growing fruit stage.

You can use a general Fruit Tree Spray at this time, or use an individual product. Follow the products direction on how many times you should spray the tree over the season. Check your trees weekly to see if you have any specific insect infestations.

Tent caterpillars and other worms can be sprayed with **Bonide Captain Jack's** which contains Spinosad. Remove any dead or infected fruit to prevent spread of insects or diseases.

Harvest - Stop spraying approx. 14 days before harvest.

Remember: always read the product label and follow the recommendations that are listed!



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Always try to grow in your garden some plant out of the ordinary, something your neighbor never attempted. For you can receive no greater flattery than to have a gardener of equal intelligence stand before your plant and ask.....

"What it that?"

~ Richardson Wright



Garden To Do List March



Garden:

Walking on wet soil will cause compaction. After the spring thaw wait until the ground dries to start working it. To test moisture level, squeeze a clump of dirt in your hand, if it breaks apart when you open your hand, it is dry enough to work.

Amend soil with gypsum, compost or peat moss to add nutrients and improve drainage.

Plant peas, onion sets, radishes, spinach, kale and lettuce as soon as soil thaws and can be worked

Prepare vegetable garden beds as soon as possible for early vegetables like cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli and Brussels sprouts

Plant pansies, violas, snapdragons and alyssum

Start seeds indoors that can be planted after frost free date such as tomatoes and peppers. Our **average** frost free date is May 15. Watch weather forecasts for cold nighttime temps to cover plants! Harvest horseradish while still dormant.

Spray fruit trees with dormant oil, peach trees with **Bonide Liquid Copper Fungicide** before bud break.

Fertilize blueberries & apply a soil acidifier.

Test saved seeds for germination.

Perennials

Clean up perennial beds.

Tie up and cut back ornamental grasses to within a few inches from the ground.

Cut dead wood out of roses and trim to shape.

Landscape

Trim dead/damaged branches from trees and shrubs. Remove protective mulches around perennials as temps begin to warm and plants break dormancy.

Don't remove too soon as hard freezes are possible. Transplant roses, shrubs and ornamental trees before leaf buds open.

Apply slow release fertilizer to shrubs and perennials.

Apply Preen, a pre-emergence herbicide, to prevent weeds in landscape beds.

Get help with landscape design now before the busy gardening season.

Lawn

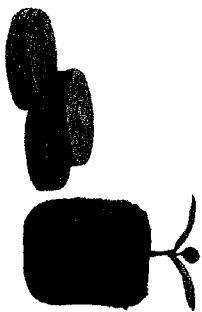
Apply crabgrass preventer. This not only prevents crabgrass, but all weed seeds from germinating.

Early Spring Shopping Check List

- Seeds - bulk & pkgd.
- Seed Starter Mix
- Peat Pots & Pellets
- Jiffy Cell packs
- Seed Heating Mats
- Perlite & Vermiculite
- Fruit Tree Sprays
- Dormant Oil Spray
- Fertilizers
- Crabgrass Preventer
- Soil Amendments
- Gypsum
- Animal Repellents
- Peat Moss & Bark Mulch
- Preen weed preventer

Coming Soon!

- Asparagus Roots
- Onion Sets
- Seed Potatoes
- Fruit Trees & Plants
- Cool weather vegetable plants

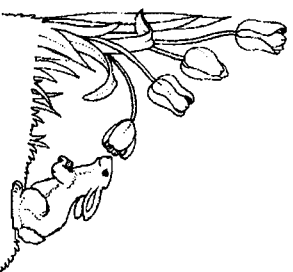


Upcoming Dates

March 20th - First Day of Spring (we hope!!!)
April 21st - Easter

We will have: Easter lilies, Asiatic lilies, Tulips, Hyacinths, Daffodils and other Spring blooming plants!

If your church or organization is looking for Easter flowers, we have special pricing for large orders. Contact either store for details.

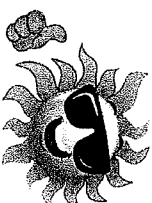


March 17th is St. Patrick's Day
 The Irish culture is steeped in deep tradition and folk lore. St. Patrick supposedly plucked a clover and used it to illustrate the Holy Trinity. That is why Shamrock's are popular on St. Patty's Day. We have them available with green or burgundy leaves. These are actually house plants called Oxalis.

Plant Peas on St. Patrick's Day!

This is an old wives' tale, but with St. Patty's day a couple weeks away, we are still having single digit lows. Each spring we discuss Growing Degree Days (GDD), the accumulation of days since the beginning of the year where the average of the high and low for the day is 50 or more (40 + 60 divided by 2 = 50). Forsythia bloom at 58 GDD. As of now, we are at 11 GDD! The soil temp needs to be around 50°F for seeds to germinate. The first day of Spring is March 20th! The groundhogs did not agree on predicting and early Spring! So, I predict that by the next newsletter we will have said

goodbye to the snow and Hello to sunshine!



Call NOW to get on our Spring Schedule

- Landscape design & installation
- Landscape maintenance - clean up, trimming, edging & mulching
- Paver patios and sidewalks & concrete retaining wall installation
- Lawn fertilization and weed control
- New lawn installation - seeding & sodding