



Riverview Garden Club Helpful Hints



March 2019

Spring is right around the corner, somewhere! Now is the time to think spring and start planning your gardens. Frost is possible this month. Do not uncover plants or plant tender plants too early.

HOUSEPLANTS: Plants begin new growth as day lengths increase. Repot root bound plants by moving them to containers 2 inches larger in diameter. Check for insect activity and apply controls. Insect populations can increase rapidly at this time of year before the plants are set outside for the summer. Leggy plants should be pruned.

ORNAMENTALS: Perennials, shrubs, and trees can be planted as soon as they become available at local nurseries. Dormant mail order plants should be unwrapped immediately and the roots kept from drying out. Store in a cool protected place and plant as soon as conditions allow. Loosen winter mulches from perennials carefully. Recover plants at night if frost is predicted. Clean beds by removing weeds and dead foliage. Heavy pruning of trees should be done before growth occurs, not while the new leaves are growing. Summer and fall blooming perennials should be divided now. Apply a fertilizer such as 6-12-12 to perennials when new growth appears. Gradually pull back mulch from rose bushes. Apply sulfur around acid-loving plants such as azaleas, rhododendrons, hollies and dogwoods. Follow fertilizer directions. Ornamental grasses should be cut to the ground as new growth begins. Do not apply dormant oil sprays to a plant after its buds have begun to swell as damage may occur.

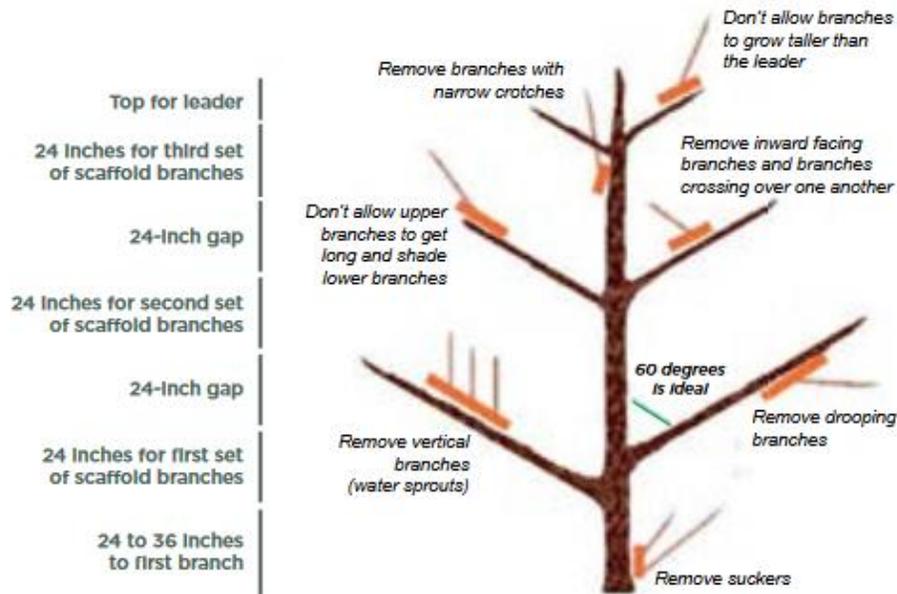
LAWNS: Mow low to remove old growth before new growth begins. Apply broadleaf herbicides for control of cool season perennial and annual weeds such as chickweed and dandelion when they are actively growing. Thin and bare patches can be over seeded now. Allow several years of annual applications of control for wild garlic to succumb. Apply crabgrass preventer about the time forsythia is blooming. Cool season grasses are best fertilized in the fall. Nitrogen applied in spring encourages excess growth which is more susceptible to disease.

VEGETABLES: Fertilize the garden as the soil is being prepared for planting. Unless directed by a soil test, one to two pounds of 12-12-12 fertilizer per 100 square feet is sufficient. Delay any planting if the soil is

too wet. It is dry enough to be safely worked when a ball of soil crumbles easily after being squeezed together in your hand. You can plant beets, carrots, parsley, and parsnip seeds outdoors when the soil can be worked. Set out broccoli, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, Chinese cabbage, and cauliflower transplants.

Plan, plan, plan for spring!

PROPER PRUNING OF TREES



--Sandy