



Betty's Bloomers Nursery

Issue 32

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Happy Thanksgiving!!!

It's that time of year again... Family gatherings, shopping, cooking, parties, and everything in between. There just doesn't seem to be time for any extra chores such as working in the yard, but with the weather getting better it sure is nice to be able to get outside for a little while. Actually, now is an excellent time for gardening: trees and shrubs transplant much better when they are beginning to go dormant because they can devote more energy to root production instead of growing new leaves and branches. Plants need less water and nutrients now than when they are actively growing in the Spring and Summer.

What's in Season

Camellias and their smaller cousins the Susanqua are shrubs that are beginning to bloom now and can be transplanted through the Winter months. They prefer a partially sunny area planted in rich fertile soil that drains well. Some Camellias will grow 8 to 10 feet wide and 15 feet tall so give them plenty of space.

Shade trees planted now will have a jump start for Spring and Summer growth. Most trees do not like wet feet, so make sure the area drains well. Also, make sure the area you are planting in allows enough space for the tree at its mature height and width. For those wet boggy areas

some trees that can be planted are: Bald Cypress, Weeping Willow, River Birch, and Water Oak. Dig the hole twice as wide as the root ball but no deeper. This loosens the soil so the roots can spread out and allows water and nutrients to penetrate more easily down to the roots. Trees have a crown where the trunk of the tree meets the root area and if you plant the tree too deep and bury this area it will stunt the growth of the tree.

We have a good selection of Poinsettias growing this year. Many of them will be sold to area businesses and churches, but we still have some that are not booked. Please call ahead to reserve yours because we sell them on a first come first serve basis. We give volume discounts.

To Do List:

With cold weather approaching, we will be bringing in tender tropical plants and container grown plants into a warm house or garage. Remove any unwanted hitchhiking insects by giving them a bubble bath. Mix a soapy solution using dish washing liquid, like Ivory liquid, and spray the leaves and soil thoroughly. This also will clean the leaves of dirt and mildew. Rinse the soap off with clean water. Large plants like Hibiscus and Bougainvillea can be pruned back now to a more manageable size for storage over the winter. They will probably drop many leaves

inside anyway and you will have a nice compact plant when it is time to move back outside in the Spring.

Sometime plants or trees need to be relocated due to overcrowding or just planted in the wrong place. Now is a good time to transplant. You will have better success if you dig as much of the root ball as possible without disturbing the soil and continue to give adequate water until it has become established. If you do not need to move the plant or tree immediately, cutting a circle with a shovel around the dripline of the tree or shrub one month before you transplant will allow some of the roots to heal before you move it and will help ease transplant shock.

Something Extra

Go outside and gather seed pods, pinecones, nuts and twigs for your Thanksgiving centerpiece. Add fall blooms and fruit for a festive look. Or, better yet, let us make a living center piece with houseplants in a wicker basket decorated in fall colors.

Contact us

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Happy Gardening!