



Betty's Bloomers Nursery

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Brrr, It's Cold Outside!!

It's hard to think about getting outside to garden in this weather, but there are some gardening chores that need to be done before everything starts sprouting this Spring. Now is the best time for pruning dormant trees & shrubs and improving the soil in your vegetable garden. For more details, see the "To Do" section below.

What's in Season

When our outside world looks lifeless and brown, we need to bring a little green inside. Houseplants help to satisfy that urge for something green and growing. Foliage plants with thick leaves do best in the low humidity atmosphere inside your house without drying out the leaves. Ivy, Philodendrons, Rubber Plants, & Succulents are some varieties that will tolerate these conditions. For a little added color, add Bromeliads or Cymbidium Orchids. Both are tropical plants that adapt well indoors and come in many different colors and sizes. Place them near a bright window and check often to make sure they have sufficient moisture.

To Do List:

Get a head start on improving your soil in your vegetable garden when the soil is dry enough to till. However, trying to work soil that is too

wet can cause the soil to pack and be lumpy. Mix in leaves or composted material to help condition the soil and add nutrients. If you use commercial fertilizers, apply now to make sure all the particles dissolve and keep the fertilizer from burning the tender plants.

If you want to "go organic", till in composted manure to help add nutrients and condition the soil. Adding lime to your soil will help balance it if your soil is too acidic. Bone Meal adds natural phosphorus which helps to promote strong roots & stems and produces more blooms. Blood meal adds nitrogen which makes healthier foliage. Adding Potash, which is in wood ashes, helps to make a stronger root system.

Pruning trees and shrubs can sometimes be a little intimidating, knowing when, how much, or how little to prune. There are many good gardening books that explain how to prune fruit trees vines & ornamentals. The internet is also a good source, many agricultural colleges offer free information on their websites. Texas A&M and Louisiana State Universities have much useful information.

Generally, if you give fruit and ornamental trees plenty of growing room, they will need only a minimum amount of pruning once their basic shape is formed. Most fruit trees such as Citrus, Apples, Pears, Plums and Persimmons will

only need dead or damaged limbs or any mis-shaped limbs removed. "Watersprouts", which are small limbs that grow straight up from the center of the tree, will not be very productive and will need to be pruned out. Peach trees will need to be pruned into a vase shape to keep them productive & to control their height.

Grape vines produce better on new wood, so prune back to the main vines while they are still dormant.

Something Extra

Sometimes when you do something for a long time you just assume most people know about it, but many people tell us that they did not know we dressed plants. For almost 40 years we have been providing Florist wrapped foliage plants and baskets for funerals, birthdays, get wells, and any other occasion. Our wicker basket filled with seasonal color plants are very popular. We deliver locally to Silsbee & Kountze, so don't forget to give us a call for your special valentine!

Contact us

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Happy Gardening!