**November Gardening Calendar**

There is still time to plant snapdragons, stocks, petunias, dianthus and calendula in the winter flower bed. November also means that it will be consistently cool enough to plant cyclamen, primula and pansies. Use cyclamen and primula for shaded beds or containers in the shade. Pansies and pansy cousins (Jonny Jump-Ups and Violas) do best in full sun. Pre-treat all for pill bugs, slugs and snails with slug and snail bait.

In the vegetable garden, carrots, beets, English peas, rutabagas, turnips, lettuce and other greens can still be planted by seed. Use transplants for broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage and Brussels sprouts. Spinach transplants are especially desirable to plant. Cabbage loopers are active this time of the year. If your leaves begin to look moth-eaten, it is likely that the small green worms are hiding on the underside of the leaves. The organic controls of Spinosad and Bt work very well, but don’t wait too long after damage first appears. The loopers grow fast and eat a lot!

Fertilize plants in the flower and vegetable garden with winterizer lawn fertilizer or slow-release lawn fertilizer every 3-4 weeks. The vegetables that produce greens are especially nitrogen-hungry.

Tomato plants should have fruit about ready to harvest now. Keep in mind that a cold spell with freezing temperatures could show up any time this month. Have your agricultural fiber, blankets or the new “planket” coverings ready for actions. Often if you can protect tomatoes from a November freeze, you may have 3-4 weeks more of mild weather suitable for ripening your tomatoes.

Plant wildflowers this month. Select a sunny area where the seed can reach bare soil. Wildflowers do not need good soil to prepare.

It is also the best time of the year to plant shrubs and shade trees. Among the recommended shade trees are Texas red oak, live oak, Mexican white oak, Mexican sycamore, cedar elm, bur oak and chinkapin oak. Recommended shrubs for foundation plantings are dwarf Buford holly, standard Buford holly, dwarf Chinese holly, dwarf yaupon holly, nandinas and viburnum. Many nurseries offer their shade trees and shrubs at sale prices in the fall. If it is difficult to dig a hole in your soil, start with a smaller tree.

Dig the hole as deep as the container and 2-3 times as wide, if possible. Soak the root ball and planting hole at planting and cover the roots with mulch. Water again when the soil dries under the mulch.

There is still time to apply a “winterizer” fertilizer to your lawn. Research results indicate that a fall fertilizer contributes to winter hardiness and a fast green-up in spring.

The lawn grass should not need irrigation now, but water a St. Augustine lawn every month that we do not receive any rain.

Mow as often as necessary to keep the winter weeds from taking over and setting seed. Remember how bad the weeds were last winter and spring.