**Q&A**

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Q: Raccoons are driving me crazy. They knock our plants over, tear the vegetable garden up and pull the bird feeders down. What can we do?

A: Raccoons are relatively easy to trap in a live trap. Your area feed store or farm supply store may have one to sell or to lend you. You may also want to call Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; it has traps to borrow. Department personnel will sometimes pick up the trapped varmint and dispose of it for you. Use peanut butter for bait. Good hunting.

Q: How do you prepare Chinese cabbage? It is a very productive vegetable.

A: I use it like regular cabbage. Boil it and serve it with butter or use it in hot dishes with meats.

Q: My zoysia lawn has brown spots now. Is it a disease that we can treat?

A: If the brown area just showed up, I think it may just be a response to the cold weather. Zoysia goes dormant in dry periods and cold periods. It will green up next spring.

Q: Is it too late to plant spinach? How about onions?

A: No, both can be planted as transplants now. Fertilize them with 1 cup of lawn fertilizer for every 8 feet of row before planting and every three weeks through the winter.

Q: Which is the best foundation shrub for the house that is in deep shade?

A: Viburnum, holly and nandina can all tolerate the shade. Look at the plants at the nursery and see which you like the best. Also be careful about selecting the size to fit your need. My favorite is usually the dwarf Chinese holly or dwarf Buford holly.

Q: What will eat cyclamen blooms? They are slowly disappearing.

A: Were they subjected to freezing temperatures? For temperatures below 30 degrees, cover them with Insulate or a similar fiber. Slugs and snails can be controlled with slug and snail bait.

Q: Is it too late to plant pansies?

A: No, they will do fine if planted now.