Hort-bull

November Calendar

There is still time to apply winterizer fertilizer to the lawn. As long as it is green and the weather is mild, the lawn can utilize the nutrients. The winterizer application contributes to winter hardiness and a fast green-up in the spring.

Keep a close watch for cabbage loopers in the vegetable garden. They can set your broccoli and other greens back pretty quickly if they are left untreated. Bt products (Thuricide, BioWorm Control, Dipel) and Spinosad are two organic products that do a good job at killing the pests.

Watch the forecast. If temperatures are going to be below 45oF for a few days, you may want to put the bougainvillea, hibiscus, plumeria and mandevilla in a freeze-proof shelter for the winter.

For your tomatoes and citrus, check out the new “planket” freeze protection product. It is a plasticized fabric that is available in many shapes and sizes. The round ones are perfect for citrus in containers.

November is the time to plant cyclamen, primula, pansies and spinach. They all are set back by the hot spells we suffer in October and September. Use cyclamen and primula in the shade for color. Use pansies in full sun. All of the plants have good cold tolerance. Spinach does best in full sun. Harvest the leaves as you need them.

This is the best time of the year to plant trees and shrubs. The plants have time to develop roots before the hot weather arrives. My favorite shade trees are live oak, Mexican white oak, Texas red oak, cedar elm, bur oak, chinkapin oak, Mexican sycamore and Chinese pistache.

Take advantage of the CPS shade tree rebate. Go to their website for the application. Your favorite nursery may also have one. You can receive a $50 rebate each on your utility bill for up to two trees.

Divide the spring blooming perennials now. Iris, daffodils, Shasta daisies, Fanick’s phlox and German carnations all benefit by the process. Spread them out and fertilize the new plants. If you do not have space for new plants, give them to other gardeners.

If you feed the birds, November is a good month to start feeding again for the winter.