

Happy New Year!



January 2017 Garden Planner

PLANT:

Planting Tip: **Don't dig or walk on clay soil that is soaking wet.** Clay soil will get compacted and be cement when it dries, inhibiting root growth and impairing drainage. Do your soil prep during dry periods.

• **Our dormant, packaged Roses** are in biodegradable paper pots. We prune them and seal their



canes for you so they are ready to plant now! Follow our **FREE Rose Planting Guide** for guaranteed success. For rose info, attend a **Winter Rose Care Class**. See **Coming Events** for details.

• **Dormant Fruit trees** are arriving in biodegradable paper pots in addition to the fruit trees currently in stock. We even have apples, cherries, pears and blueberries in starter sizes! Consult our **FREE Garden Guides** on our website, www.yamagamis.com. Especially useful are our **Fruit Tree Planting Guide**, **Backyard Orchard Guide**, and **Fruit Tree Care Calendar**.

• Sow **seeds** indoors for cool season vegetables such as chard, lettuce and spinach. Use a **Hydrofarm Seed Mat** to get them off to a quick start. Give them a bright location so the seedlings don't become leggy. Plant seedlings out in February and cover them with **Easy Gardener Plant and Seed Blanket** or **RowGrow Tunnel** to protect them from bugs and frosty nights.

• Brighten up your winter with a **cheery color bowl!** We offer pre-potted combos or we can help you choose plants for sun or shade. If flowers seem too needy for you, try one of our succulent dish gardens for easy care. Their shapes and shades of green make them appealing. For

the practical, a salad bowl of edible "greens" can be quite lovely as well as delicious! Fight the drear by bringing life to your deck, front porch, or garden.

FERTILIZE:

• When your spring-blooming **bulbs** show signs of growth, top-dress them with **Espoma Bulb Tone**. Feeding the plant boosts your flowering this year and helps the bulb produce strong foliage and buds for bountiful flowers next year.

• After you prune your **roses**, feed them with two cups **Alfagrow Alfalfa Pellets** per plant. This will stimulate new flowering canes and strong stems.

• **Boost blossoms** on winter and spring blooming plants with new **Espoma Organic Bloom! Liquid Fertilizer** (1-3-1). It's easy to use.

• Give foliar applications of **Maxsea 16-16-16** to your cool season **flowering plants and color bowls** to keep them blooming.



PRUNE:

• **Sharpen your pruning tools** to avoid smashing and tearing branches when pruning. Pruning with sharp blades is easier on you too. The **Bahco Sharpener** works well and is easy to use.

• **Dormant season pruning** just takes a little know-how. Our favorite handy little pruning book, **How to Prune Fruit Trees and Roses** is back in print! Pick up a copy and/or learn from experts how to shape **Fruit trees**, as well as **Roses**, in one of our classes. See **Coming Events** for details.

• Most trees and shrubs do not need treatment on their cut ends. In fact

they will heal more quickly left bare. **Roses**, though, need their cut ends sealed to **prevent cane borers** who enter the cane through the wound. Cane Borers can kill the cane, and eventually the plant.

• If **limbs break in stormy weather** and you are able to get to them swiftly, try splinting them with stakes and Ace bandages; many times they will heal. If they are severed, use a saw to make the wound clean and slanted so that any rain that falls on it will run off. Do not seal the wound.

• Leave **spring-blooming shrubs** like lilac and mock orange (Philadelphia) unpruned until after bloom to avoid cutting off the blossoms.

• Prune back **Hydrangea** stems that bloomed last season. Trim off 12 inches or more, leaving at least 3 buds. Look for the fat buds and prune just above them.

• You can enjoy the browned winter blades of **dormant grasses**. Prune them off when you first notice new growth starting. That way every year the clump will have fresh, lovely foliage. In the meantime, that old growth serves as frost protection for the clump.

PREVENTATIVE MEDICINE:

• **Dormant season spraying** is important to prevent insects and disease on your fruit trees. Time your spraying for a period with 48 hours of no rain. Spray **Monte-rey Liqui-Cop**



first, then, when it is dry, spray with **Monte-rey Spray Oil** to control overwintering insects. All spraying must be completed before spring

bud break. Pick up our **FREE Fruit Tree Care Calendar** for specific recommendations.

- Watch for those cold, calm, starry nights to protect your tender plants from **frost**



damage. Your first line of defense is to be sure plants have been well watered before the frost. Frost protection fabrics are available on rolls and as sheets and bags. These can be draped directly on the plant. Consult our **FREE Frost Protection Guide** for more tips.

- Before your Camellia starts to bloom, clean up around it, then lay a 2" layer of clean mulch underneath it. This prevents petal blight spores from past infections from being splashed back into the plant.
- **Protect Cymbidium blossom spikes** from snails with *Sluggo* or put copper tape around the container. Flower and vegetable seedlings should also be protected.

GARDEN MAINTENANCE:

- **Check the stakes and ties** on young trees, especially patio trees and tree roses. You don't want their heads to snap off in a storm.
- Leave the fallen leaves from your **Avocado Tree** under the tree. Its own leaves are the best mulch for Avocados. Otherwise, **clean up** garden debris to remove over-wintering homes for diseases and insects.
- Start the New Year off right for your **houseplants**. Giving them a shower cleans off any dust they have collected, plus it helps defend against insect infestation. If possible, move them to an area with more light available. Increase humidity around plants by putting stones in their saucers, elevating the drain-

age holes so that air can circulate under the pots. When you water the plants, the water that drains into the stones will evaporate up into the plant, raising the humidity around the plant while allowing any excess water to drain away from the roots.

COMING EVENTS:

- **Sat., Jan. 14th at 10 AM or Sun., Jan. 22nd at 11 AM. Winter Rose Care** with Lorena Gorsche. Class covers pruning, disease and pest prevention, and general care. Also covered - Hydrangea pruning! Class is **FREE**, plus each participant will receive a coupon for 20% off their purchases that day.



- **Sun., Jan. 15th at 11 AM Fairy Garden Class** with Tammy MacKenzie. \$40 fee includes instruction and materials to construct and bring home your own whimsical container garden. It's a fun experience to share with friends and family. Space is limited, reserve your spot by calling us at 408.252.3347.



- **Sat., Jan. 21st at 10 AM and again at 2 PM. Winter Fruit Tree Care** with Ed Laivo. Learn about pruning, dormant spraying and general fruit tree care. **FREE**, plus each participant receives a coupon for 20% off their purchases that day.



- **Sat., Jan. 28th Chinese New Year** starts. We are entering the Year of the Rooster! We have a great selection of Kumquats and other Citrus for your celebration. We also have a good supply of festive blooming plants.



- **Tues., Feb 14th is Valentine's Day!**

Show someone you care with plants that keep blooming and/or fruiting!



- **Sat., Feb. 18th Celebrate The Birds and Bees!** At 10 AM it's **All About Mason Bees** with a guest speaker from Orcon (Organic Control), suppliers of beneficial insects. Mason Bees are tiny, non-stinging, solitary bees that are very effective pollinators. Discover how other beneficial insects can help your garden! At 2 PM it's

- **Plants for Birds, Butterflies, and Bees.** Learn what plants



will fill your garden with happy, well-fed pollinators. Focus will be on water-wise plants.



- **Sun., March 19th from 12 noon to 2 PM Celebration of Citrus** featuring a Citrus Tasting hosted by Generation Growers. Citrus-based goodies will be sampled and recipes will be shared. Talk with the grower for tips and suggestions for citrus for your garden. Come taste winter's gold and discover new favorites.