

Fall is for Planting!



September 2017 Garden Planner

PLANT: Fall is our “second spring”, and an ideal time for planting. Plants use the cool season to put all their energy into developing their roots. Then, in spring, they can devote their energy into growing and flowering.



• **Cool Season vegetables** include leaf crops (greens), root crops (beets), peas, and stem/flower crops (broccoli). Most can be planted now from starts or seeds. Root crops perform best when planted directly from seed into the ground. See our *Vegetable and Seed Planting Guide* for depth and spacing info. It's under Garden Guides on our website: www.yamagamis.com Attend our **Cool Season Vegetable Garden Class** for great tips and techniques. See Coming Events for details.

• **Cool season color** includes pansies, Iceland poppies, ornamental kales, mums and snapdragons in your sunny spots. Primroses and cyclamen can be planted in shady areas as impatiens and begonias are removed. If the weather is hot, shade new transplants.

• **Californian and Australian Native plants, and water-wise plants** are best planted in the fall while the soil is warm, the air temperatures are cooling, and plants can take advantage of the first of the rains.

• **Replace or repair lawns** from sod or seed now, when the air and soil temperatures are just right. Both projects need the same soil prep. Follow our Lawn Guides under Garden Guides on our website: www.Yamagamis.com.

• Consider planting **Native Sod**s for a water-wise yard. They can even be

left dry (and brown) in the summer (if desired) and come back beautifully in the rains. Installation can be arranged. **Kurapia** is another water-wise sod available. See our Delta Sod Guides under Garden Guides on our website: www.yamagamis.com.

• Choose **Spring-flowering bulbs** as soon as they arrive for best selection, but wait to plant them until the soil is cooler. **Tulips** and **Hyacinth bulbs** should be stored in paper bags in your refrigerator's crisper until planting. Daffodils and the rest should be stored in a cool, dark place like a closet or garage until planting. Plant them around Thanksgiving for best blooms. Follow our **FREE Fall Bulb Planting Guide** for success and enjoy a spectacular spring.

• Start **sweet pea** seeds now for a wall of fragrant col-next spring. Dig a trench 12" deep x 12" wide and amend your soil with **G & B Harvest**



Supreme to create a half and half mixture. Add **G & B Rose and Flower Fertilizer** and plant 2 seeds 1" deep and 6" apart. Give the tall varieties a trellis to climb, and enjoy the show! **Renee's Garden Seed** has a great selection of sweet pea varieties including dwarf ones suitable for container growing.

• Plant **Fava Beans** as a cover crop to use as green manure in the spring. Till the mature fava plants into your soil in the spring to add nitrogen to your soil. This is especially helpful where your tomatoes were as they deplete the soil. Plus, harvested young, fava beans are tasty. Seeds for other cover crops include crimson clover and buckwheat.

FERTILIZE:

• Soils are depleted after vigorous spring growth and summer harvests. Feed your soil in the fall. Use **Agrowinn Minerals** (also known as rock dust) to re-mineralize depleted soils. This is especially needed for raised beds containing planting mix and other soil-less mixes.

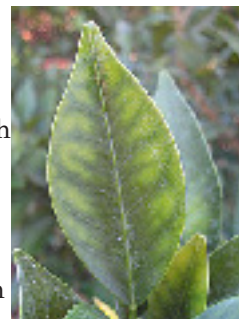
• Clay soil that has been dry or has gotten compacted has become adobe brick. Water and fertilizer will run right off instead of going down to the roots. **Before fertilizing, apply EZ Wet to improve drainage.** Fertilizers and any other soil treatments will be much more affective.

• Fall is the best time to fertilize your **fruit trees, citrus, grapes, and berries.** **G & B Citrus and Fruit Tree Fertilizer** recharges them after harvest and provides stored fuel for next year's fruit production.

• **Australian Native Plants** need feeding now, but are native to soils that are low in phosphorous. Thus they don't need (or like) phosphorus (middle number in fertilizers). An excellent fertilizer choice for them is **Alfagrow Pellets (2-0-3).**

• **Ornamental trees, shrubs and groundcovers** benefit from a fall feeding of **G & B All Purpose 4-4-4.** Plants will use what they can and store the rest for a vigorous spring. Use it for container gardens too.

• **Iron Deficiency** (chlorosis) in Citrus trees appears as yellowish leaves with green veins. The real culprit is alkaline soil (high pH). Try a two-pronged approach to remedy. Spray with **Citrus Grower's Blend** for a direct response. Additionally, apply **Epsoma Soil Acidifier** to your soil



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now, and again in the spring every year for long term benefit. Azaleas, Rhododendrons, and Gardenias will appreciate this treatment, too.

- All lawns, especially tall Fescue lawns need fall feeding to stay green in the winter. **G & B Lawn Fertilizer** is natural and all organic, so it is slow-releasing with no run-off to our watershed.



- Encourage **Roses** to bloom in fall. First, remove all spent blossoms then foliar feed with **Maxsea Fertilizer**. Maintain a layer of mulch about three inches deep and water deeply about twice a week.
- Switch your **Cymbidiums** to the bloom formulation of **Growmore Bloom 6-30-30** so they can set buds now for next spring's bloom.

PRUNE:

- Prune your **Apricots** now or wait until next summer. Do not prune in winter when they are susceptible to Eutypa, a die-back disease which is spread in cool, wet weather.
- After harvesting your **fruit**, prune fruit trees to control size. You can prune again in winter (except apricots) to shape. Consult our **Backyard Orchard Culture Guide** for summer pruning guidelines either in the nursery or on our website, www.yamagamis.com. For winter pruning we offer an excellent small book, **How to Prune Roses and Fruit Trees**.

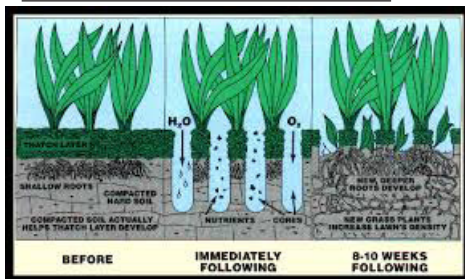
PREVENTATIVE MEDICINE:

- If you haven't done it yet, prevent grub infestations and the resulting raccoon feeding frenzies in your lawn. Use **Beneficial Nematodes** (also safe for veggie gardens) and pit the good bugs against the bad grubs. Another natural control is **Safer Grub Killer**, a concentrate of neem oil in a handy hose-end spray bottle.
- Be on the lookout for **Citrus Leaf Miner** damage on your Citrus trees.

New leaves will be curled and trails of the larvae (in between the layers of leaves) can be seen. If you suspect them or see damage on neighbor's trees, hang **Citrus Leaf Miner Traps** on trees to monitor their population and determine when control becomes necessary. To control, apply **Monterey Insect Killer** 3 times at 10 - 14 day intervals.

- As you install new plants, be sure to apply **a pre-emergent** between plants to prevent weed seeds from sprouting. We offer long-lasting **Preen** in a convenient shaker jar. It does not damage growing plants.
- **Annual Bluegrass** is a bright chartreuse, fine-bladed weed grass that sprouts in early winter, then flowers and dies in summer leaving behind a bare spot in your lawn. If you had it last winter, prevent its re-appearance this winter with **Scotts Plus Weed Preventer**.

GARDEN MAINTENANCE:



- **Renovate/refresh your lawn** by thatching (removing dead grass) and/or aerating (remove plugs from compacted lawn). Don't leave the plugs on top of the lawn. Remove them, and compost them for mulch. Afterwards, reseed. We can help you choose the right seed if you bring us a plug of your existing lawn, roots and all.

- **Amaryllis** bulbs need a dormant period for best bloom. If you have not already done so, stop watering and allow the foliage to dry and die back. Store the bulb (potted or not) in a cool dark, dry place for about 12 weeks. Move it back into bright light and start watering it.

- Plan future harvests by ordering bareroot **Fruit Trees** through Yamagami's Special Order Fruit Tree



arrive in January 2018. The **SOFT** order form is on our website, www.yamagamis.com with a complete listing. Deadline for **SOFT** orders is November 1st. The benefits of planting bareroot trees include wider selection, better price, and faster "take".

- Pick **winter squash, gourds, and pumpkins** when the stem holding it to the vine starts to shrivel. The rind will resist denting when you press on it with your thumbnail. Cure the squash in the sun for at least 3 days, turning it over daily. Store in a cool dry place with ventilation.

- Dig and divide old clumping grasses and perennials. Dispose of any dead centers and replant the healthy divisions (with roots) in soil amended with **G & B Planting Mix**. Be sure not to bury the divisions any deeper than they were originally planted.

COMING EVENTS:

- **Saturday, September 9th: Fall Veggie Garden Class at 11 AM** Hannah will guide you through planning and planting your vegetable and herb garden. Class is **FREE**.



- **Thursday, September 28th through Sunday, October 1st: Fall Sale!** It's time to plant! **Save 40%** on all 1 gallon and larger outdoor plants! Find savings up to 50% on select pottery, giftware, and statuary!