

January

- Turn off irrigation if rain more than 1" over 2 weeks otherwise the seasonal adjustment on the **irrigation controller** should be set to 15-20%
- Prune Roses** to three main canes approximately 18" in height. Clean up all dropped leaves from around the roses.
- Prune** fruit trees, and other leafless trees and shrubs from December through January. **WARNING:** Do not prune spring blooming shrubs and trees such as lilac, quince, flowering cherry etc. until the blooming period is over.
- To prevent summer suckering **prune branches to larger** branch – thinning out 1/3 of the branches to enable airflow and better tree health
- Fruit Tree Dormant Spraying-** Early winter is a good time to make an application of dormant spray to help control over-wintering insect and disease problems. A combination Lime Sulfur and Oil spray or Copper spray are the ones most often used for winter dormant spraying. Do not spray when the temperatures are below freezing; or when it is raining; or at a time when the wind is blowing. Apply the spray according to label directions.
- Start seeds of **cool-season vegetables** such as spinach now for seedlings to plant outside in February.
- If **cold weather** is predicted, make sure plants are well watered (dry plants are more susceptible to frost damage).
- Move tender container plants (citrus, cymbidium, Mandeville, and hibiscus, for instance) beneath overhangs or into the garage. For frost-tender plants too large to move or growing in the ground, protect with burlap (don't let the cover touch the leaves)
- Sharpen and clean gardening tools.
- Hydrangea:** Non ever-blooming varieties- Bloom off old wood so avoid severe pruning all branches- - Prune half the branches severely and the reset to bud to ensure you have blooms- then next year prune those that you did not prune this year.

February

- Turn off irrigation if rain more than 1.5" over 2 weeks otherwise the seasonal adjustment on **irrigation controller** should be set to 25%
- Pick up old blossoms.** Azaleas and camellias are both prone to diseases called petal blight .Brown lesions develop, and the flowers rot. The best way to control is to collect and discard infected blossoms and avoid overhead watering. Apply 4 inches of organic mulch beneath camellias to reduce spore survival.
- Plant** bare-root roses. Set them in well-drained soil in a spot that gets six to eight hours of sunlight. If soil is sandy or heavy clay, amend it with organic matter such as fir bark or compost.
- If you haven't already done so, apply dormant **sprays** to control aphids, black spot, and mildew. Use horticultural oil with lime sulfur or fixed copper.
- Lawns** - Late this month or early next are good times to feed the lawn with a spring type lawn fertilizer. If moss is problem, use a spring fertilizer that contains a moss killer, so you can do both jobs in one easy application. A follow-up application of dolomite lime will help sweeten the soil.
- Start Seeds** for vegetables and summer annuals indoors.
- Fertilizing** - Mid to late February is the time to fertilize trees, shrubs and evergreens. 10-10-10 for most plants. Use a rhododendron type fertilizer to feed evergreens like junipers, conifers, broadleaf evergreens, rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias. Use a rose or all-purpose garden type fertilizer to feed roses, fruit and flowering trees, plus other deciduous trees and shrubs. If you use dry type fertilizers, be sure to water-in thoroughly after application.
- Remember to water plants under eaves and in containers. It's important to **deep water trees** and shrubs if it isn't raining on a regular basis. Their root systems are starting to grow now.
- Plant perennial vegetables and fruits.** You can set our strawberries, rhubarb, raspberry, blackberry and many other cane fruits, asparagus and artichokes

March

- Turn off irrigation if rain more than 2" over 2 weeks otherwise the **irrigation controller** should be set to 45% - in normal years controller should be turned on by mid month
- Check irrigation system- make sure sprinklers working efficiently and that drippers /driplines are not clogged by insect, debris or hard water deposits. Flush all lines
- Warmer days tempt gardeners...** Before you start digging take a handful of soil and squeeze it gently. It should crumble in your hands. Otherwise it is probably too wet to work. Digging and tilling wet soil can ruin the soil structure.
- Do not plant tender annual/vegetable** starts until after 3/15 (usually last frost for East Bay)
- Weeding** –Pull weeds before they go to seed or get out of hand and while the soil is still damp for easier removal.. Most weeds can simply be pulled or cultivated out of the garden. Others, some of the more persistent like horsetails, morning glories or quackgrass you may need to use an herbicide to effectively eliminate them.
- Control Snails:** Now is the time to set out snail bait whether rolled up newspapers or a non toxic snail bait.
- Roses:** As soon as buds begin to swell, feed roses with a high-nitrogen fertilizer such as 20-10-10, or a commercial rose food. Continue feeding every six weeks until October.
- Amend Soil:** Before planting, amend soil with compost, ground bark, or other organic material. This will increase water retention in sandy soil, decrease it in heavy clay soil, and improve the texture of both kinds.
- Spring Planting and transplanting** – Planting of shrubs and trees not done in the fall , herbaceous perennials, ornamental grasses while days are shorter and the soil is warming up but there is still natural moisture in the soil and air.
- Lawns:** Aerate, de-thatch and fertilize.
- Place **Yellow Jacket traps** out early this month to catch the queen before she starts her family. Prevention is the best cure!

April

- Irrigation controller** seasonal adjustment should be set to 75%
- Roses:** Apply mulch to save water, smother weeds, and keep soil cooler. Spread 1 to 3 inches (depending on size of plant) of bark chips, compost, wood shavings, or other organic material. Leave a circle of bare soil around the plant's base.
- Blast aphids** off plants with a jet of water from a hose. If infestations are heavy, spray with insecticidal soap.
- Divide Your Perennials** -- Divide perennials that will bloom in the summer or fall once they've sent up significant foliage at least a couple inches tall. (Wait to divide spring-blooming perennials after they bloom.)
- Lawns:** Renovate weak lawns by over seeding/reseeding the lawn late this month.
- Summer flowering bulbs-** plant summer flowering bulbs like dahlias, gladiolus and lilies. Mix bulb fertilizer, processed manure and peat moss into the planting soil.
- Plant summer blooming annuals-**
- Start vegetable garden.** Plant perennials and some cooler season vegetables such as, radishes, carrots, lettuce, spinach, beans etc. Warmer season vegetables should wait until next month
- Evergreen pruning** - The months of March, April and May are ideal for pruning Evergreens. So if you have a juniper, conifer or cypress that needs shearing or pruning this is a good time to accomplish this task. Keep your pruning cuts within the green (foliage) parts of the plant. If you cut back into bare branches it is sometimes difficult or impossible for the plant to re-grow from the old growth.
- Mulch:** the soil has warmed up enough that you can apply a 3-4" layer of well composted mulch on flower beds and around trees and shrubs. It reduces weeds, conserves moisture, and prevents disease.

May

- ❑ **Irrigation controller** seasonal adjustment should be set to 85%
- ❑ **Plant** summer and fall blooming perennials as well as shrub, tree, or vine.
- ❑ When shopping at the nursery, look for plants that have good leaf color (green leaves should be a deep green, not pale and yellowish) and attractive form. Check container bottoms to make sure roots aren't growing out of them (which may mean plants are root bound). Plants should also be well watered.
- ❑ **Vegetables:** Start corn, tomatoes, peppers etc in garden. Plant corn in blocks. Corn plants carry both male and female flowers. The male flowers are on the tassels at the tip of the plant; the female flowers form the silk that hangs out of the developing ears. In order for the ears to produce a full set of kernels, wind must distribute pollen to all of them,. To ensure good pollination, plant corn in blocks of no fewer than 16 plants (4 rows of 4 plants).
- ❑ For **pumpkins** by Halloween, sow seeds now.
- ❑ **Apply iron chelate.** If foliage on azaleas, camellias, citrus, and gardenias is yellowish with green veins, the plants need iron. Use iron chelate (according to label directions) or a complete fertilizer (10-10-10) containing iron chelate.
- ❑ Select those plants that you need to replace, such as those that were winter killed or have lost shape due to improper pruning. Plants that are grown in containers, they can be planted into the garden at anytime now.
- ❑ **Water** infrequently as possible, deeply and ensure that the entire root zone is wetted.
- ❑ **Lawns:** During the summer months, turfgrass requires between 1- 1.5 inches of water per week. This should be done during the cooler part of the day, when the winds are low and there is sufficient time for the droplets to dry from the blades. Mow more frequently but always lightly, never taking off more than 1/4 of new growth at a time. Set blade height to between 2 and 3 inches

June

- ❑ **Irrigation controller** seasonal adjustment should be set to 100%
- ❑ **Feed roses.** To encourage growth and repeat blooming, feed plants with a complete fertilizer (one containing nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium); if leaves are mostly yellow and veins remain green (indicating chlorosis), also give plants iron. Water thoroughly before applying any kind of fertilizer and water again afterward if using a granular type. **Remove** spent roses. Cut blooms above a five-leaflet leaf.
- ❑ **AVOID** overhead watering of roses and other shrubs with large blooms to reduce disease.
- ❑ **Shear spring-blooming perennials.** To keep low-growing, spring-blooming perennials full and compact, remove spent blooms and 1 or 2 inches of growth. Use sharp grass shears or hedge shears.
- ❑ There is still time to plant late season warm season vegetables
- ❑ **Feed, water** (especially on hot days), **weed, and mulch.** Remove faded blooms to encourage new blooms on ever-blooming shrubs
- ❑ To eliminate aphids and spider mites from roses, spray plants with water, then apply insecticidal soap.
- ❑ **Clean up** fallen leaves. If they're diseased, discard them (don't compost them).
- ❑ You can remove yellowed, brown **bulb** foliage as soon as it pulls off without resistance -- no sooner!
- ❑ Now is the time to **control** a number of diseases. Check junipers, birches, cherry and arborvitae for bagworms and other leaf-eating caterpillars, then treat with *Bacillus thuringiensis* as needed. Watch for fungal disease on tomatoes and roses and spray with a fungicide (a botanical, earth-friendly one if possible).
- ❑ **Set the mower** up a notch or two as the month heats up. Keep the grass a little longer in length.

July

- ❑ **Water:** July is the month of peak water requirement. Ensure plants are watered deeply. After this month irrigation times and durations can be reduced.
- ❑ **Avoid planting in the heat of the summer** plants will require extra water and care to survive. if needed chose days where overcast and cooler temps forecasted.
- ❑ **Harvest vegetables and fruit.** Tie up tomatoes and beans
- ❑ Hanging baskets and **container** plantings may need special watering consideration should the temperatures get much above seventy degrees. In fact, they may need daily or twice daily watering if it should get hot, into the eighties or nineties.
- ❑ **Avoid fertilizing in the middle of summer** it increases water needs and can stress plant if new growth is hit by extreme temps
- ❑ To eliminate aphids and spider mites from roses, spray plants with water, then apply insecticidal soap.
- ❑ **Clean up** fallen leaves. If they're diseased, discard them (don't compost them).
- ❑ **Thin the fruit** of apricots, pears, peaches, apples, and other orchard fruit after fruit drop. Keep a vigilant eye out for pests and diseases, and treat promptly and organically. Keep the ground clean of litter and fallen fruit.
- ❑ **Use liquid organic** fertilizer on your potted plants every two weeks. Frequent watering can lead to leaching of valuable nutrients.
- ❑ **Monitor** spots and objects in your yard that might be harboring standing water. Drain these areas for mosquito control. Change birdbath water every few days, and clean birdbaths with a firm blast of water and a scrub brush weekly.
- ❑ **Do not deadhead too soon midsummer-** the fading blooms provide food and nectar to bird, butterflies and other wildlife
- ❑ **Pruning of CA natives-** if your Manzanita or Ceanothus need to be reduced in sized do it mid summer when these plants are somewhat dormant.

August

- ❑ **Feed, water** (especially on hot days), **weed, and mulch.** Remove faded blooms to encourage new blooms on ever-blooming shrubs
- ❑ To eliminate aphids and spider mites from roses, spray plants with water, then apply insecticidal soap.
- ❑ **Clean up** fallen leaves. If they're diseased, discard them (don't compost them).
- ❑ Put out ant bait (ants farm aphids to other plants).
- ❑ Put out earwig bait near flowers
- ❑ **Plant** fall vegetable garden. Such as lettuce, radishes, cauliflower, spinach etc.
- ❑ **Shrubs:** Cut flowering shrubs to encourage more flowers and to shape bush.
- ❑ **Clean up any fruit trees.** Pick any left over fruit before they can get a fungus that can harm future crops.
- ❑ **Feed fruit trees.** One last time until March for increased vigor in the spring.
- ❑ **Weeding** - As the weather gets warmer and the garden is watered more there is a likelihood that weed seeds will germinate faster. Take time to keep the weeds cultivated out of all parts of the garden. Since weeds are hosts to many insects and diseases it is important to keep them under control, so pests and diseases do not infest your other garden plants.
- ❑ **Deep water trees.** Many sprinkler and drip-irrigation systems aren't programmed to run long enough for irrigating trees adequately or deeply. To avoid moisture stress during hot weather, water trees to a depth of up to 24 inches, depending on the size and age of the tree. Thoroughly soak the soil under the tree's canopy. Check moisture penetration by digging down with a trowel
- ❑ **Lawn:** Reseed brown areas with best regrown grass selection. Top seed weak lawn areas with rye grass for a quick winter green carpet.
- ❑

<u>September</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation controller seasonal adjustment should be set to 70% <input type="checkbox"/> Fruit trees are bearing, so water frequently and deeply for plump fruit. <input type="checkbox"/> Plant winter vegetables while the soil is still warm- broccoli, cauliflower, snow peas, cabbage, and beets, onions etc <input type="checkbox"/> Prune all sap bleeders such as maple, walnut and large magnolias <input type="checkbox"/> Apply pre-emergent weed control to prevent the most stubborn weeds of spring <input type="checkbox"/> Best time to plant lawn- Sept 15-Oct 15. The soil is still warm enough to promote root growth and seed germination <input type="checkbox"/> Feed acid loving plant with Azalea/Rhododendron food <input type="checkbox"/> PERENNIALS. Plant perennials now so roots get established through late fall and winter <input type="checkbox"/> CARE FOR ROSES To encourage a good flush of flowers in fall, give plants a shot of fertilizer now. Make sure the soil is moist before applying it; water well afterward. Also remove faded blooms and rose hips to encourage bud formation. If powdery mildew is starting to show up on leaves, or if spider mites are present, spray foliage with a nontoxic fungicide made from sulfur. <input type="checkbox"/> Water in the early morning. Water the soil, not the leaves. Water deeply and occasionally rather than shallow and often. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation controller seasonal adjustment should be set to 45%- Plants still need water but the shorter days and cooler nights reduce their water needs. <input type="checkbox"/> Time for planting- ALL fall is the best time to plant new landscapes. The soil is still warm, but the weather is not too hot and it is the beginning of the rainy season so irrigation is not as critical. Landscapes have the best chance of surviving if planted in the fall. <input type="checkbox"/> Plant cool season annuals such as Pansies, Violas, Primroses, Calendula, Chrysanthemums <input type="checkbox"/> Fertilize lawn with a high nitrogen fertilizer. <input type="checkbox"/> Lawns. Fall is an ideal time to plant grass seeds or lay sod. Prepare the bed thoroughly. Rotary-till the soil, turn in plenty of organic matter (such as compost), and apply a lawn fertilizer for new lawns (follow package directions). <input type="checkbox"/> Halt snails. Cool, damp fall weather brings on snails. To control these pesky creatures, apply a bait containing iron phosphate which is safe to use around edible crops, children, pets, and wildlife. Or you can surround the edges of pots and raised beds with copper barrier tape. <input type="checkbox"/> Harvest the last of the summer vegetables as well as the first crop of the fall vegetables <input type="checkbox"/> Lightly breakup top layer of soil. Add gypsum to heavy clay soils. <input type="checkbox"/> Remove spent flowers. Cut back plants finished blooming to 4-6" above ground. <input type="checkbox"/> Dig up, divide, replant and fertilize all early blooming perennials not divided in the past 2 years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Turn off irrigation if rain more than 1" over 2 weeks otherwise the seasonal adjustment irrigation controller should be set to 25% <input type="checkbox"/> WATERING - One of the major reasons why some plants do not make it through winter's cold weather is because the soil is too dry. Be especially careful to check the plants under the eaves of the house and under tall evergreens and other areas where the soil tends to dry-out quickly <input type="checkbox"/> Give your lawn a nitrogen break. Fertilize with a high Potassium (P) and Phosphorus (K) <input type="checkbox"/> Do not fertilize roses, shrubs or trees through dormant period. <input type="checkbox"/> The beginning of November is the final time to dig up, divide, replant and fertilize all early blooming perennials not divided in the past 2 years. <input type="checkbox"/> Fruit Trees: Prune back long limbs to stabilize tree for winter. <input type="checkbox"/> Add thick (4") layer of mulch in vegetable garden and around all perennials and shrubs. <input type="checkbox"/> Plant the spring flowering tulips, daffodils, hyacinths and crocus bulbs <input type="checkbox"/> Winterizing - Tender plants like geraniums, begonias, impatiens and gerbera daisies, bougainvillea, and cymbidium orchids should be brought indoors before the first frost ruins them. <input type="checkbox"/> DORMANT SPRAYING - As soon as the leaves fall from fruit trees, shade or flowering trees, raspberries and other deciduous plants they can be sprayed for the first time with a dormant spray. <input type="checkbox"/> Spray for mildew and black spot as required. <input type="checkbox"/> In areas where night temps stay in the 30's or below. Do not plant herbaceous perennials or ornamental grasses that tend to go dormant in winter- They will not have enough time to establish root growth before the colder temps hit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Turn off irrigation if rain more than 1" over 2 weeks otherwise the seasonal adjustment irrigation controller should be set to 15-20% <input type="checkbox"/> WATERING – Many Plants become more susceptible to cold and other winter born issues due to dry soil. Note though that succulents, lantana and Kangaroo paw actually prefer the dry cold so ensure that mulch is not too close to the base of these plants. <input type="checkbox"/> Fertilize specialty shrubs such as azaleas, Camellias, Dogwood, Roses with 5-10-10 – 1-2 handfuls per plant. <input type="checkbox"/> Winterizing - Tender plants like geraniums, begonias, impatiens and gerbera daisies, bougainvillea, and cymbidium orchids should be brought indoors before the first frost ruins them. If they cannot be brought indoors- add Christmas lights or cover plants and move to a protected area of your yard. Likewise, fuchsias, dahlias and other semi-tender plants should be prepared for their winter storage <input type="checkbox"/> DORMANT SPRAYING The second spraying should take place in December. Most dormant sprays are a combination of liquid lime, sulfur and oil. This spraying helps control over-wintering insects and diseases. Apply according to label instructions. <input type="checkbox"/> CLEAN-UP - Take some time to clean up the garden this month. Dead leaves can be cut off perennials and the debris from summer plants can be collected and added to the compost pile. A little time spent on grooming the garden will certainly improve the overall appearance of the garden for the rest of the fall and winter. <input type="checkbox"/> Plant /transplant trees and shrubs during the dormant season with the minimum amount of transplanting shock