

Alabama Gardeners Calendar

ANR-47

January

FRUITS AND NUTS -- Set out apples, peaches, pears, and grapes. Start grafting pecans. Prune dormant trees.

SHRUBS -- Plant shrubs and trees, including broadleaf, narrowleaf, and deciduous. Graft camellias in South Alabama. Spray all deciduous shrubbery with a dormant spray to control diseases and insects. Spray when weather is on warming trend.

LAWNS -- Soil test before setting up fertility program.

ROSES -- Visit nurseries and garden centers to select varieties. Start planting.

ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS-Plant hardy annuals.

BULBS-Late plantings of Dutch bulbs will flower if planted now. Lilies of all types, except Madonna, may be planted. Check stored bulbs and discard rotten ones. Make indoor plantings of amaryllis, callas, and gloxinias.

MISCELLANEOUS-Prune winter-damaged limbs. Give houseplants a bath in lukewarm water to remove dust. To keep poinsettias that have finished flowering, turn pots on their sides and let them dry completely. Cut them back lightly. Keep in a temperature of 55 to 60 °.

VEGETABLE SEED-Plant hardy vegetables, root crops, roots, and tubers in southern-most areas. Plant lettuce, cabbage, and broccoli in coldframes.

VEGETABLE PLANTS-Set out cabbage plants.

February

FRUITS AND NUTS-Planting season continues for dormant trees. Fertilize fruit trees. Apply half of the fertilizer recommended for grapes now; apply the other half soon after fruit sets. Continue dormant pruning and grafting. Start strawberry plantings.

SHRUBS-Planting season continues. Visit camellia shows to learn of hardy varieties in your area. Graft camellias in Central and South Alabama. Spray all shrubs with a fungicide before new growth starts.

Good time to prune all shrubs before new growth starts. Don't prune early-blooming species because flower buds will be removed.

ROSES-Prune hybrid tea roses in South Alabama; delay pruning for a few weeks in North Alabama. Continue planting.

ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS-Replant early plantings of hardy annuals. Prepare beds for summer annuals.

BULBS-Plant cannas, amaryllis, gladiolus, and zephyranthes in South Alabama; delay planting for a few weeks in North Alabama.

MISCELLANEOUS-Houseplants are beginning to show signs of activity. Fertilize with liquid or soluble fertilizer according to manufacturer's directions. Remember Valentine's Day. Why not send roses or a potted plant?

VEGETABLE SEED-Plant some vegetables listed for January in Central Alabama plus collards, salsify, and Swiss chard. Add tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, cauliflower, and Brussels sprouts to coldframes.

VEGETABLE PLANTS-Plant cabbage, onions, lettuce, broccoli, and Brussels sprouts.

March

FRUITS AND NUTS-Continue strawberry and grape plantings. Bud apples and peaches. Start planting blackberries. Remember, if weather conditions prevent prompt planting, heel the plants in by placing the root system in a trench and covering the soil.

SHRUBS--Fertilize shrubs (except azaleas and camellias) according to a soil test. Late plantings may be made, particularly if they are container-grown. Watch shrubs for harmful insects.

LAWNS-Plant bermuda, zoysia, and centipede in South Alabama. Seed bluegrass and grass mixtures in North Alabama. Fertilize established lawns.

ROSES-Watch new growth for aphids. Begin a spray or dust program. Begin fertilizing.

ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS -- Tender annuals may be planted in South Alabama. Check garden centers for bedding plants.

BULBS-Plant gladiolus every two or three weeks if a long blooming season is desired. Plant tuberous begonias in pots. Plant dahlias.

MISCELLANEOUS -- Check and repair sprayers, dusters, and lawn mowers. Control lawn weeds with chemicals. Delay pruning of fruiting shrubs such as cotoneasters, pyracanthas, and hollies until after flowering.

VEGETABLE SEEDS -- Plant hardy crops recommended for January and February. After danger of frost is past, plant tender vegetables.

VEGETABLE PLANTS-Plant cabbage, onions, lettuce, broccoli, and Brussels sprouts in North Alabama; plant tomatoes and peppers in lower South Alabama.

April

FRUITS AND NUTS-Season for strawberry planting continues. Start spray program for all fruits. Plant raspberries and blackberries and continue budding apples and peaches.

SHRUBS-Prune spring flowering shrubs after flowering. Fertilize azaleas and camellias. When new growth is half completed, spray all shrubs with a fungicide.

LAWNS-Planting continues. New lawns may need supplementary watering. Also, fertilize at 3- to 6-week intervals. Keep ryegrass cut low, particularly if overplanted on bermuda lawns.

ROSES-Watch for insects and diseases. Keep old flower heads removed. Plant container-grown plants from nurseries or garden centers.

ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS-Plant early started annuals or bedding plants from nurseries or garden centers. Divide mums or root cuttings. Dig and divide dahlias.

BULBS-Plant gladiolus, fancy-leaved caladiums, milk and wine lilies, and ginger and gloriosa lilies. Feed bearded iris with superphosphate and spray for borers. Avoid cutting foliage of narcissus or other bulbs until it has turned brown naturally

MISCELLANEOUS-Spray camellias, hollies, etc., for scale insects. Carefully water new plantings of shrubs and trees. Pinching out tips of new shoots promotes more compact shrubs.

VEGETABLE SEED-Plant tender vegetables such as beans, corn, squash, melons, and cucumbers. Plant heat-loving vegetables in lower South Alabama.

VEGETABLE PLANTS-Plant tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, sweet potatoes, and parsley

May

FRUITS AND NUTS-Continue spray program. Keep grass from around trees and strawberries. Peaches and apples can still be budded.

SHRUBS --Newly planted shrubs need extra care now and in coming weeks. Don't spray with oil emul-

sions when temperature is above 85 °F.

LAWNS-Now is the best time to start lawns from seed. Water new lawns as needed to prevent drying. Keep established lawns actively growing by watering, fertilizing, and mowing. Spray weeds in lawns with proper herbicide.

ROSES--Spray or dust for insects and diseases. Fertilize monthly with complete fertilizer or rose special. Container-grown plants in flower may be planted. Prune climbing roses after the first big flush of flowering.

ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS-Late plantings of bedding plants still have time to produce. Watch for insects on day lilies.

BULBS-Summer bulbs started in containers may still be planted. Do not remove foliage from spring flowering bulbs. Do not let seedheads form on tulips and other spring flowering bulbs.

MISCELLANEOUS-Mulch new shrub plantings if not already done. Avoid drying out new shrub, tree, and lawn plantings.

VEGETABLE SEED-Plant heat-loving and tender vegetables. Start cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, and celery in coldframe for fall garden.

VEGETABLE PLANTS-Plant tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, and sweet potatoes.

June

FRUITS AND NUTS-Layer grapes and continue spray programs. Thin apples and peaches if too thick.

SHRUBS-Lace bugs may be a problem on azaleas, pyracanthas, dogwoods, cherry laurels, and other shrubs. Water as needed. Fertilize now. Keep long shoots from developing by pinching out tips. Good time to take cuttings from semi-mature wood for rooting.

LAWNS--Follow a schedule of fertilization and watering. Lawns should be mowed weekly. Planting may continue if soil is moist. Continue weed spraying if necessary.

ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS-Keep old flower heads removed to promote continued flowering. Plant garden mums if not already in. For compact mums, keep tips pinched out. Watch for insects and diseases.

BULBS--Foliage may be removed from spring bulbs if it has yellowed and is becoming dry. Watch for aphids and thrips on summer bulbs.

MISCELLANEOUS-If scale insects continue on shrubs, use materials other than oils. Set houseplants on porch or outdoors in shade and pay close attention to the need for water. If desired, air layer houseplants.

VEGETABLE SEED --Plant beans, field peas, pumpkins, squash, corn, cantaloupes, and watermelons.

VEGETABLE PLANTS-Plant tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, and sweet potato vine cuttings.

July

FRUITS AND NUTS-Protect figs and other ripening fruit from birds.

SHRUBS--Continue to root shrub cuttings until late in the month and mulch to keep soil moist. Remove faded blooms promptly from crape myrtle and other summer-blooming plants.

LAWNS-Watch for diseases. Mow regularly Water as needed.

ROSES-Keep roses healthy and actively growing. Apply fertilizer. Wash off foliage to prevent burning if any fertilizer falls on plants.

ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS-Water as needed to keep plants active.

BULBS--Iris and spider lilies may be planted late this month.

MISCELLANEOUS-Keeping flowers, shrubs, trees, and lawns healthy is the major task this month. This demands close observation for insects and diseases. Water.

VEGETABLE SEED-Plant beans, field peas, rutabagas, squash, New Zealand spinach, and Irish potatoes. Plant cabbage, collards, broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, and celery for the fall crop.

VEGETABLE PLANTS-Plant tomatoes in Central and North Alabama.

August

FRUITS AND NUTS-Cut out old blackberry canes after fruiting and then fertilize and cultivate for replacement canes. Remember to order new catalogs for fruit selection.

SHRUBS-Layer branches of hydrangea.

LAWNS--Watch for diseases. Mow regularly Water as needed.

ROSES--Keep roses healthy and actively growing. Hybrid teas and floribundas may need slight pruning to prevent scraggly appearance.

ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS-Water as needed. Plant perennials and biennials.

BULBS-Divide old iris plantings and add new ones.

MISCELLANEOUS--Keeping flowers, shrubs, trees, and lawns healthy is the major task during this month. This means close observation for insects and diseases. Water.

VEGETABLE SEED-Plant turnips, rutabagas, beans, and peas in South Alabama.

VEGETABLE PLANTS-Plant cabbage, collards, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, broccoli, and celery

September

FRUITS AND NUTS--New catalogs will be arriving soon. Start plans for future selection and plantings. Take soil test for new planting areas. Fertilize

established strawberry plantings.

SHRUBS-Study landscape to determine plant needs. Check early varieties of camellias. You may want to replace those damaged in spring by late freezes. After fall growth is completed, spray all shrubs with a fungicide.

LAWNS-Plant seed of winter grasses where situation prevents planting permanent grasses. Winter seeds will appear soon. Stop fertilization three weeks before frost.

ROSES--Protect fall crops of blossoms from aphids and thrips. Keep plants healthy.

ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS-Last chance for planting perennials and biennials. Old clumps of perennials may be divided. Plant peonies.

BULBS-Spring-flowering bulbs may be planted late this month in North Alabama. Delay planting in South Alabama.

MISCELLANEOUS--Clean up infestations of insects on azaleas, camellias, boxwoods, gardenias, hollies, etc. If oil spray is needed, don't use in freezing weather. Build compost bin or box; leaves will be falling soon. Move houseplants indoors.

VEGETABLE SEED-Plant hardy vegetables and root crops.

VEGETABLE PLANTS-Plant cabbage, collards, cauliflower, celery, Brussels sprouts, and onion sets.

October

FRUITS AND NUTS-Planting season for strawberries starts in South Alabama. Clean up orchard area. Remove broken limbs, old fruit, and debris from orchard floor.

SHRUBS-Shrub plantings can be made. Water when needed. Note varieties of camellias in bloom. Start mulching all shrubs that do not have a mulch.

LAWNS--Continue to mow lawns until no new growth is noticeable.

ROSES-Continue insect and disease control practices. New rose catalogs will be coming in. Study closely; add some new varieties to your list.

ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS-Visit flower shows and gardens. List desirable varieties of mums. Clean up flower beds immediately after first killing frost.

BULBS--Plant tulips, hyacinths, daffodils, crocuses, Dutch irises, anemones, and ranunculuses. Watch planting depth. Dig caladiums; clean and store in warm place.

MISCELLANEOUS-Renew mulch around shrubs and rose beds. Loosen mulches that have packed down. Spray with oils before freezing weather to kill scale, mites, etc. Remove all dead stems and trash from flower beds. Transplant into small pots any cuttings taken earlier.

VEGETABLE SEED-Plant turnips, mustard, kale, rape, spinach, and onion sets.

