



The Plant Professionals

## Gill's Garden News March 2010

♪*The sun will come out tomorrow! Bet your bottom dollar that tomorrow the sun will shine!*♪ Words every gardener lives by lately as we wait for the breaking of spring. So what's a gardener to do if they can't plow up the flowerbeds and start planting? I think we look for inspiration. I love that word. It so describes what we want you to find at our nurseries. And so you shall.



*Emma Frinton checking out the new playground area!*

New adventures await the children at our Airline store. The playground has been brought to life with new equipment including swings, ropes, slides, and even a climbing wall. Very tempting even for the young at heart! Beautiful trees and shrubs are in place waiting for the change of seasons and flowers find any place they can to catch your eye.



*Levi Harkey trying out the slide!*

The edible garden area has grown with more selections and a demonstration area has been added for everyone to see just how easy it is to grow a tomato and other tasty treats. So don't worry about old man winter, the sun will come out tomorrow, but you don't have to wait for your inspiration. Come see us soon.

A giant **THANK YOU** to all of our seminar speakers and attendees. We appreciate everyone coming and hope you came away with new ideas and new friends. Look for our next seminars to begin in late May and June for the summer garden season.

St. Augustine will be ready this month. I know many of you are anxious to put in new green sod. We will have Floratam at both stores. The grass will start turning green as the soil warms up.

### Lawn Care:

- Fertilize when the grass is actively growing, Apply Gill Lawn and Garden 13-1-3, or Green Diamond 21-7-14 to your lawn. Water in well (approximately 30 minutes per area).
- Organic fertilizers such as Milorganite and Lady Bug Lawn and Garden will feed your lawn and soil with minimal watering.

- Eliminate broad-leaf weeds with Green Light Wipeout liquid or granule and grassy weeds with Image (Do not use wipeout liquid on Floratam St. Augustine).
- Lay new sod anytime, bermuda seed anytime this month.
- Only water every 14 days if we don't get rain – water deeply (1" per area. It's best to water in the morning. This helps to reduce problems with fungus.)

### **Plant:**

- Most annuals and perennials can now be purchased as transplants this month. Here is a list of some of our favorites: alyssum, begonias, celosia, coleus, geraniums, impatiens, marigolds, false heather, lantana, blue daze, petunias, salvia, gerbera daisy, caladiums (plants and bulbs), and larkspur.
- Transplant: tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, squash, eggplant, and strawberries
- Sow seeds of beans, okra, radish, pumpkins, and watermelons
- All hardy and tropical trees, shrubs, vines and grasses. I can't think of one that can't be planted now!
- Late spring and summer bulbs such as caladiums, and elephant ears

### **Fertilize:**

- Your azaleas, gardenias, and magnolias with Turf Magic Azalea Food or Miracle Gro ACR for acid loving plants, organically with Maestro Gro-Rose Glo, or Texas Green Sand.
- All hibiscus and tropical bloomers with Green Diamond Hibiscus Food, Organically with Maestro Gro-Rose Glo.
- All trees and shrubs with Gill Lawn and Garden Fertilizer, Green Diamond Supreme Lawn Food, organically with Milorganite, Medina Growin Green or Lady Bug Lawn and Garden
- Annuals and perennials with Miracle Gro or Osmocote Time Release Granules, organically with Medina Growing Green, Lady Bug Lawn and Garden, Hasta Gro, Maestro Rose Glo, or Plant Tone
- Established roses with Turf Magic Rose Food, Bayer Rose & Flower Care, organically with Maestro Rose Glo or Plant Tone
- Established citrus trees (3 years or older) with ammonium sulfate 21-0-0 available in 4 to 40 Lb. bags, organically with Medina Growing Green,

Lady Bug Lawn and Garden, Hasta Gro, or Plant Tone

- Cool weather vegetables with ammonium sulfate, organically with Medina Growing Green, Lady Bug Lawn and Garden, Hasta Gro, Maestro Rose Glo, or Plant Tone
- All granular fertilizer should be watered in well.

### **Prune:**

- All dead and freeze damaged wood from hardy and tropical trees, shrubs, vines and perennials
- All early spring bloomers such as azaleas, Carolina Jessamine, climbing roses, and Indian Hawthorns **after** they finish their bloom



*Sabine Tovar on the lookout!*

### **Watch Out For:**

- Outbreaks of aphids, caterpillars, whitefly, scale, snails, pillbugs and beetles on everything from vegetables to trees. They should be out in full force and hungry.
- Watch for powdery mildew and blackspot on roses.

### **To Control:**

- Caterpillars – use Liquid Sevin, organically with Bioworm or Dipel Dust.
- Scale – Bayer Rose & Flower Spray, organically with Oil Spray
- Beetles, Aphids – Liquid Sevin, Malathion, Bayer Rose & Flower Spray, organically with Bioganics, Spinosad, or Diatomaceous Earth
- Snails, slugs and pillbugs – Green Light Bug and Snail Bait, organically with Sluggo
- Fungus, Powdery Mildew – Daconil, Funginex, Fungaway, organically with Neem Oil or Serenade

- White Fly – Bayer Rose & Flower Spray, Bayer Tree & Shrub, organically with Bioganic, Sticky Traps, or Oil Spay

**Be sure to follow label directions as not all chemicals can be used on all plants**

**Watering:**

- Water all plants well after planting, and regularly through the first year.
- Plants will begin to use more water as they grow and bloom. Outdoor potted plants dry out quickly, as do hanging baskets and small annuals.

**Items of Interest:**

New veggies include Phoenix hybrid tomato, the rodeo pick for the San Antonio Livestock show. Look for a few heirlooms varieties and lots of cucumbers, squash, and beans, and peppers. Growing edibles among your flowers and perennials is perfect for those with limited space. Even easier is to pot them in containers, especially herbs.

The roses this year are looking great. They are strong, healthy plants that love the cold and rain. The AARS winner “Easy Does It” is stunning with its multi color fragrant flowers. The new Drift roses are also very attractive. They are a cross between carpet roses and miniature roses. The result is a compact, free flowering beauty.

*Be sure to check out our weekly specials at [www.gillnursery.com](http://www.gillnursery.com)*



*Mr. Tovar and infant son shop for fresh plants in the new vegetable garden display.*