OCT. GARDENING TIPS

ANNUALS

-Continue feeding warm weather annuals (petunia, vinca, etc..) to get one more push of blooms before cold weather shuts them down.

-Transitional annuals are available in the nursery now, as well as some cooler options like: snapdragons, calendula, annual phlox, and marigolds. These make great color arrangements for fall.

-Plant seeds AND transplants of bluebonnets now. They can handle our winter temperatures (and actually need them to bloom in spring).

TURF

-BUY Rainbow Gardens 18-6-12 NOW (if you are using synthetic fertilizer) and apply mid month through mid November.

-Turn automatic sprinklers off in the evening. Night watering can contribute to Brown Patch fungal disease in turf during fall.

-Overseeding with Rye grass seed can begin mid month.

TREES & SHRUBS

-Prime time to start tree & shrub planting (this includes hardy fruit trees).

-Hold on moving (digging and transplanting) trees and shrubs until mid Nov to early Dec.

-Watch for Lacebugs on Azaelas as they are active this month and next. They feed on the underside of leaves and present with white dots on upperside of leaves and dark brown spots on the underside of leaves. Treat with a systemic insecticide or Sevin spray, as soon as you can. (Make sure to spray under the leaves.)

PERENNIALS

-The pollinator migration has begun. Are you ready? Planting a mix of host and nectar plants ensures that your landscape will be a stop on their journey.

-Water in newly planted perennials with a half strength water-soluble fertilizer.

-Plant seeds of echinacea, bluebonnets, coreopsis, toadflax.

-Late season perennials that bloom beautifully through October and November are: Cigar plant, ruellia, salvias, butterfly weed, goldenrod.

VEGGIES AND HERBS

-Cole crops/cool weather veggies are here. Offer shade from the afternoon sun until the weather breaks for good.

-Wait to plant spinach until the constant cool weather is here in November. It will suffer if planted when too hot.

-Root crops should be planted by seed only, as they have a long taproot that can be damaged if transplanted.