JANUARY GARDENING TIPS

ANNUALS

-Start seeds of alyssum, calendula, and nasturtium inside. You'll need a bright window or help from a grow light.

-Pansies and Violas planted outside will see you well into spring.

-BULBS: Plant Spring bulbs that have been chilled for at least 8 weeks. (Tulips, Hyacinth, Muscadine)

HARDY FRUIT & NUT TREES

-This is a great time to plant fruit and nut trees. The sooner you plant, the longer they have to get established before summer. (Remember some fruit trees MUST have a cross pollinator, and ALL will produce a more bountiful harvest if paired with another variety.)

-January and February are ideal months to prune established fruit trees.

TREES

-Shade and ornamental trees can still be planted, the quicker you can get them in, the quicker they can establish roots to help them survive the hot summer to come.

-Prune shade trees (NOT spring-flowering trees) so their wounds can heal fast in spring.

SHRUBS & ROSES

-Hold off on fertilizing shrubs this month.

-If you have shrubs that are prone to scale (hollies, camellias, euonymus, privets, etc.) it's a good time to preventively spray with horticultural oils, as long as nighttime temps are above 40.

-Hold off until next month to hard prune roses. We like to do it on Valentine's Day.

LAWNS

-Remove fallen leaves on lawn by mowing them to mulch, or collecting and putting in compost bin. Your lawn needs to catch the sun's rays to replenish carbohydrates.

VEGETABLES

-Buy herb and vegetable seeds now while they are plentiful at the nursery. Start seeds of warm weather varieties indoors this month.

-Plan, plan, plan your spring vegetable gardens so you know how many seeds to start indoors, or how many transplants you need to budget for.

-If your garden is empty, prep garden beds so veggies have the best soil to live in. Add at least 3" of compost and/or other rich, organic matter and till into the first 5 inches of garden beds.

-Potatoes should be in the available late this month.

-Asparagus crowns and transplants are arriving in the nursery. Plant these perennial vegetables now.