

JANUARY 2024

ANNUAL GARDENING CALENDAR
 PREPARED FOR HARVEST (ORNAMENTALS)
 BY DR. ROBERT E. MOON



DR. R.E. MOON + ASSOCIATES
 est. 1982

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31	1 NEW YEARS DAY	2 Make cuttings from geraniums, coleus, lantana, copper leaf or other soft wood plants for later transfer into the garden.	3 Plan flowering sequence for perennial flowers. Make a note of varieties of each crop to be grown. Daffodils, perennial alyssum, iris, phlox, day lillies, shasta daisies, blackfoot daisies, skullcap, rudebeckia, echinacea, coreopsis, cosmos, salvia greggii, cleome, and peonies are all good for this area.	4	5 Don't forget to fertilize house plants with a liquid plant food once every six weeks during the winter. Be sure to get water drainage from the bottom of the container.	6 Clean tools and equipment and store in a dry place after each usage. Use oil on the metal and linseed oil on the wood handles.
7	8	9	10 Plant bare-root roses and landscape plants one inch above the existing soil line. It is a good idea to cut back all trees by 1/3 to balance top growth with the roots. Water plants directly after planting and use root stimulator.	11	12 Gather leaves for mulching and composting from area lawns. Bulbs must be watered if there has been no rain.	13
14	15 Inspect house plants carefully for mealy bugs and spider mites and control them if found.	16	17 Water trees, shrubs, and lawns during dry periods. Soak the soil to a depth of six inches every 7-10 days this time of year.	18	19 Start seed of carnations, petunias, marigolds, geraniums, alyssum, and flowering purslane in small pots indoors for early spring color.	20 Check narrow-leaf evergreen plants for bagworm pouches. The adult female bagworms lay eggs in the pouch where they overwinter. Remove these pouches.
21	22 Fertilize trees, shrubs, ground covers, and vines with the Harvest Fertilizer. Surface apply and water in. Do this one time between now and the end of February.	23	24 Evergreen and deciduous shrubs and small trees set out this month will establish good roots before the growing season begins. Check the harvest list of plants.	25	26	27
28	29 Collect hardwood cuttings to be used for budding and grafting pecan trees. Take dormant cuttings on your favorite crape myrtles and other shrubs this month.	30	31	1	2	3

FEBRUARY 2024

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28	29	30	31	1 Set irrigation controller to run one time every two weeks. If it is raining, turn controller to off position.	2 Select perennial and ornamental grasses from the Harvest Approved Plant List.	3 Prune landscape trees, evergreens, and summer flowering shrubs.
4	5 Feed pansies and other winter annuals with a complete fertilizer or an organic fertilizer.	6	7	8 Plant landscape plants. They will thrive if you prepare a wide planting hole. Plant so top of root ball is 1-2 inches higher than existing soil line.	9 When planting new landscape plants, soils at Harvest will need an addition of organic matter mixed with existing soil as backfill around the roots.	10 Mulch around all plants and tree root balls with a dyed brown, double-ground mulch.
11 Water trees, shrubs, vegetables, annual flowers, and lawns during dry periods. Seed Butterfly/Hummingbird wildflowers in your garden.	12 Buy something for your special someone! Flowering plants are especially nice.	13 Scatter seeds of candy tuft, cornflower, larkspur, and poppy on prepared flower beds. Make first planting of gladiolus bulbs.	14 VALENTINE'S DAY Apply pre-emergent weed control to lawns, ground cover, and shrub beds for warm season weed control. Read and follow label instructions carefully. Pre-emergent weed control can be applied as late as the third week in March, but remember, the closer you apply to February 15th, the better your weed control.	15	16	17
18 Prune all roses except for climbing roses.	19 Prepare the lawn mower for its spring and summer workout. Disconnect the spark plug before working on the mower.	20 Fertilize all trees, shrubs, ground covers, and vines with the Harvest Fertilizer if you did not do so in January.	21 Seed coleus, marigolds, petunias, flowering purslane, and portulaca in seed flats. Treat seeds to prevent damping off disease with Neem Oil and Cueva.	22	23 Divide and re-plant daisies.	24 If you use a broadleaf weed killer on your turf, be careful, because this can be very damaging to trees and shrubs if not applied as per instructions.
25 Remove old seed clusters from crape myrtle plants. Also remove suckers off of trunks. Do not commit crape murder by cutting back all branches!	26 Cultivate around shrubs, trees, annual flowers, and vegetables as needed. Add granular gypsum, sulfur, and Ironite around these plants to improve vigor.	27	28	29	1	2

MARCH 2024

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25	26	27	28	29	1 Set irrigation controller to run one time every 7-10 days. If it is raining, turn controller to off position.	2 A hummingbird flower mix can be purchased from Wildseed Farms to encourage hummingbirds and butterflies throughout the summer. Plant in full sun areas.
3 Allow foliage to remain on spring-flowering bulbs until it dies naturally or you will have few or no flowers next spring.	4 Prune hybrid tea and floribunda roses if you have not yet done so. Do not prune climbing roses.	5	6 Enjoy your garden. Summer is on the way!	7 Spray live oaks for forest tent caterpillars as leaves begin spring flush. This spray will also reduce gall formation and aphid leaf curl.	8	9
10 Prune back overgrown ground cover beds of English ivy, jasmine, colorata euonymus, liriope, ophiopogon, and vinca to encourage new, compact growth. A lawn mower set on its highest setting works if beds are level and rock free. Renovate, fertilize, and control insects in strawberries.	11	12	13 Fertilize your lawn with Harvest Fertilizer. Follow label instructions for application rates. This first application should be made before April 14. Water the lawn after fertilization.	14 AVERAGE FROST FREE Set out alyssum, daisies, dianthus, lobelia, phlox, verbena, carefree geraniums, asters, petunias, impatiens, and chrysanthemum plants.	15 Spray broadleaf evergreens for scale insect infestation control with Neem oil.	16
17	18 Remove winter-damaged tips from all plants.	19 Re-pot overgrown houseplants. Use a loose potting soil and a container which has a hole in the bottom for drainage.	20 Start hanging baskets. They will need protection occasionally from the cold, but a week or two head start will give them a chance to become established before hot weather.	21	22	23 Set out ageratum, balsam, celosia, coleus, dahlias, impatiens, marigolds, portulaca, salvia, and zinnia plants. Mulches such as compost or dyed-brown, double-ground mulch can be...
24 ... spread around the plants to prevent weed seed germination and maximize water utilization.	25	26	27	28	29 Aerate, de-thatch, or Verticut your lawn this month. This is absolutely necessary for turf where thatch has accumulated to where water and nutrients cannot penetrate.	30 / 31 For full sun bed areas, plant a cut flower seed mix from Wildseed Farms and enjoy beautiful cut flowers all summer.

APRIL 2024

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31	1 EASTER Set irrigation controller to run one time every 7-10 days. If it is raining, turn controller to off position.	2 Seed Autumn Beauty sunflower mix, zinnias, cosmos, coreopsis, mallow, coneflower, verbena, Mexican hat, Laura Bush petunias, black-eyed Susan, and gaillardia.	3 It is not too late to plant any balled-and-burlapped or container-grown plants. Don't let the plants dry out before planting. Use a starter solution to stimulate root growth. Get rid of weeds. They rob nourishment from wanted plants. Mulch top of root balls with dyed-brown, double-ground mulch or compost.	4	5 Treat all turf and beds for fire ant control. Remove thatch from your lawn and treat broadleaf weeds in the turf. Now is also a good time to aerate your turf.	6
7 Check established lawns for brown patch and control. Spray fruit trees again to prevent insects and disease. Select plants and ornamental grasses from the approved plant list. Treat your active fire ants. Neem Oil is a good control for insects and diseases.	8	9	10	11 Sow seeds of tender annuals such as oxalis, balsams, celosia, candle trees, cockscomb, cosmos, marigolds, morning glories, periwinkle, and zinnias. Bed copper plants, ageratum, and ornamental amaranthus and other annual plants that you have not yet planted.	12	13
14	15 Watch for powdery mildew on roses, vegetables, and ornamental plants and control it. Black spot and thrips on roses need to be controlled with Neem Oil.	16	17	18 Plant Bermuda grass seed and sod or sprigs of St. Augustine or hybrid Bermuda sod. Prepare seed bed before planting. Use 1-2 lbs. of seed per 1,000 sq. ft. Select good quality turf.	19	20
21 Plant a tree.	22	23 Many house plants can be moved outdoors for their summer vacation. Continue spraying roses with Neem Oil every 10 days for insect and disease control.	24	25	26	27 Amaryllis, cannas, dahlias, elephant ears, tuberose, gladiolus, and caladiums can now be planted.
28	29 Fertilize your lawns again with Harvest Fertilizer if you have not in the last six weeks.	30	1	2	3	4

MAY 2024

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28	29	30	1 Set irrigation controller to run one time every 7-10 days. If it is raining, turn controller to off position.	2 Control powdery mildew on ornamental plants as needed with Neem Oil.	3 Good drought-resistant plants for annual color beds are potato vine, angelonia, purple fountain grass, periwinkle, scaevola, and rose moss.	4
5 Control crabgrass and dallisgrass in Bermuda grass lawns. Follow label instructions closely. Also control nutsedge in the lawn. Use a pre-emergent weed control again to prevent late weed germination. Use a regular mowing, watering, and fertilizing schedule to help avoid a weed issue.	6	7	8 Prune your spring flowering shrubs after blooming: Climbing roses, forsythia, quince, and Indian hawthorn. Shape azaleas and camellias.	9 Watch for bagworms on conifers; thrips, aphids, spider mites, and white flies on everything. Treat with Neem Oil when present.	10 Plant ornamental grasses from the approved plant list for a great summer and fall display.	11
12 Dig anemone bulbs and store in a cool, airy place for replanting in December.	13 Treat all newly planted trees for insects with a systemic insect control such as Merit or with Neem Oil.	14 Apply pre-emergent weed control to turf, shrubs, and ground cover beds for warm season weed control. Read and follow label instructions carefully.	15 Hanging baskets and house plants need wind protection; Also water and fertilize as needed.	16 Balled and burlapped and container-grown plants can still be planted.	17 Spray roses every 7-10 days with the recommended fungicide for black spot. Control when present with Neem Oil and Cueva.	18 Watch broadleaf evergreen shrubs and crepe myrtles for scale infestation and control with Neem Oil.
19	20	21	22 The mowing height of common Bermuda grass is 1 ½ to 2 ½ inches, hybrid Bermuda grass is 1 inch, and Buffalo grass is 2 ½-4 inches. Mowing should be done when there is no more than 1/3 of the growth to cut off. Treat shrub and ground cover beds with a pre-emergent to prevent summer weeds such as crabgrass if not applied earlier this month.	23	24	25
26	27 MEMORIAL DAY Replenish mulch around trees and shrubs. Use a dyed-brown double-ground hardwood mulch or compost.	28 Spot-treat fire ants. Monitor crape myrtle for scale, aphids and powdery mildew. Treat with Neem Oil.	29	30	31	1

JUNE 2024

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26	27	28	29	30	31	1 Set irrigation controller to run one or two times per week. If it is raining, turn controller to off position.
2 Do not remove the foliage of spring flowering bulbs until the foliage dies.	3 Water when needed to prevent plant stress. Soak the soil to a depth of 4-6 inches. It is better to water in the early morning hours.	4 Spot treat grasses in unwanted areas with Roundup.	5	6 Fertilize and pinch back chrysanthemums to encourage branching. Remove gladiola bulbs after the leaves turn brown and store in a dry place.	7	8 Pick and destroy bagworms from trees and junipers. Or you can treat with Neem Oil for control.
9 Fertilize your lawn. Apply a pre-emergent weed control at one-half the recommended rate if not applied in May. Apply Neem Oil for brown spot and chinch bug control as needed.	10	11	12 Fertilize annual flowers and vegetables with a balanced fertilizer to ensure continued vigor.	13 Spray Neem Oil on tree trunks to prevent borer damage. Learn to recognize patterned-hole damage in trees caused by sapsucker woodpeckers.	14	15 As soon as perennials have finished blooming, cut back spent flowers to encourage new blooms. Prune spent flowers from roses and fertilize. Fertilize chrysanthemums...
16 ... and pinch terminal buds for bushy plants and more blooms.	17	18 Repair damaged trees when needed rather than waiting for the dormant season.	19 JUNETEENTH Remember the first season for newly planted shrubs, perennials, and trees is critical, so keep them watered.	20	21 Plant spider lily bulbs. Buy large-sized bulbs for first-year blooms.	22 Treat plants with iron chlorosis with Ironite.
23 Continue to plant new lawn grasses. Warm-season grasses prefer warm days for growth. Apply ample water for germination and growth. Fertilize once the grass is off to a good growing start; do not over-fertilize. Check turf for grubworm infestation. Grubworms can be treated with a Neem Oil drench.	24	25 Continue the preventative spray program on roses for black spot, mildew, and thrip control with Neem Oil and Cueva.	26	27 Fertilize your lawns again with Harvest Fertilizer if you have not in the last six weeks.	28	29 / 30

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30	1 Set irrigation controller to run two times per week. If it is raining, turn controller to off position.	2 Gladiolas are planted this month for the last time this year. Fertilize and water as needed.	3 Plant and reset iris.	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY Fertilize perennials to encourage vigor next year.	5 Check plants for spider mites and thrips and control if needed with Neem Oil.	6 Never apply fertilizer to a dry plant. Water one day and feed the next day, then water well. This does not hold true for grass.
7 Water lawns, annuals, trees, and shrubs when needed, giving a thorough soaking rather than frequent, light sprinklings. Keep those weeds pulled which are robbing your plants of needed moisture. Keep plants mulched with compose or a dyed-brown, double-ground hardwood mulch.	8	9 Turn compost and moisten. Add grass clippings after mowing.	10 Treat ornamental tree trunks for borer control with Neem Oil or apply a systemic insect control such as Merit to the soil.	11 Do not neglect newly planted landscape materials. Dry conditions can be deadly to poorly developed root systems. Supply extra water by hand watering if needed.	12 Check turf, perennial grasses, and flowers for grub worms, and treat when present with Neem Oil.	13
14 Check condition of mulch materials. Replace or add where needed to conserve water and prevent weeds.	15 Perennials will bloom again if the spent bloom stalks are removed.	16 Soak hanging baskets in a tub of water every few days in addition to regular daily watering. This is also a good time to fertilize baskets with Miracle-Gro.	17 Fertilize all your shrubs, perennials and ground cover with Harvest Fertilizer.	18 Damaged wood or limbs should be removed from trees and shrubs right now. Do not wait until winter.	19 Protect plants moved outdoors from the hot, dry weather. Check watering daily.	20 Keep an eye out for army worms and grubworms in your lawn. Check Bermuda grass for mite damage. Control with Neem Oil, if needed.
21 Plant hot-weather annual seed such as zinnias, marigolds, Cora vinca, portulaca, angelonia, potato vine, purple fountain grass and scaevola.	22 Grubworm controls can be applied from the last week in July to the 2nd week in September. Treatment is necessary when you find 4 grub worms per sq. ft. Treat with Neem Oil.	23	24 Be on the lookout for sod webworms in lawns. This devastating pest has to be controlled when it first appears. Treat with Neem Oil.	25	26	27 Treat crape myrtles for aphids and scale insects. Plants will be wet if these insects are present. Treat with Neem Oil.
28 Other insects to watch for include lace bugs, scale, spider mites, and thrips on almost everything else. Treat with Neem Oil.	29	30	31	1	2	3

AUGUST 2024

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28	29	30	31	1 Set irrigation controller to run one to two times per week. If it is raining, turn controller to off position.	2 Make cuttings on plumbago, croton, begonias, coleus, flowering purslane, potato vine, and other foliage plants for winter pots and next year's garden.	3
4 Remove spent flowers from crape myrtles so new ones will appear. Watch for powdery mildew, aphids, and scale on crape myrtles and control as needed with Neem Oil.	5	6	7	8 Check perennials regularly for foliage diseases and insects. Control with Neem Oil and Cueva as needed.	9 Sow seeds of cornflowers, flowering purslane, petunia, larkspur, snapdragon, baby's breath, bells of Ireland, candy tuft, clarkia, cleome, cockscomb, cosmos, gaillardia, and stocks.	10
11 If you have not treated for grub worm control, check to see if it is needed and control with a Neem Oil drench if present. Make another application of lawn fertilizer and water thoroughly.	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 Control weeds in flower beds.	21 Stop pinching chrysanthemums and poinsettias after this date.	22 Shade newly-emerged vegetable plants from the hot afternoon sun.	23 Prepare strawberry planting beds for planting.	24 Start seed of pansies and violas for fall planting.
25 Sow bluebonnet seeds and other wildflower seeds for next spring/summer flowering. Purchase seeds from Wildseed Farms.	26	27 Monitor watering closely on all plants.	28	29	30	31

SEPTEMBER 2024

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1 Set irrigation controller to run one time per week. If it is raining, turn controller to off position.	2 LABOR DAY	3 Sow fescue grass seeds in heavily shaded areas where grass has died during the summer months from lack of sunlight and on the heavily shaded areas on the side of your house. This could be the answer to those bare, low-light areas.	4	5 Sow seeds in your flower beds of alyssum, calendula, dianthus, pansies, violas, and poppies.	6 Plant or reset iris, daylilies, daises, cannas, and ground cover plants.	7 Stop feeding trees and shrubs to allow hardening before frost.
8 This is the latest period for planting Bermuda grass seed to assure establishment before cool weather. Seed and sod after September may freeze during the winter months. Keep seeded sod moist for winter protection.	9	10 Do not prune or cut back spring flowering trees and shrubs as you will be removing potential spring flowers.	11 Disbud chrysanthemums if larger blooms are desired. Disbudding does not mean take off all the buds.	12 Apply a pre-emergent weed control to all lawn, ground cover, and shrub beds for cool-season weed control. Pre-emergent weed killers can be applied as late as the third week in October. This will help prevent those spring weeds.	13	14 Fertilize lawns with Harvest Fertilizer and follow label application rates. Apply in two directions.
15 Begin to prepare house plants for overwintering indoors. Re-pot overgrown plants and feed established pots with a complete, liquid houseplant fertilizer.	16	17 Get out and evaluate your landscape for new plantings during the fall, winter, and spring.	18 Take cuttings from foliage plants which have been outdoors.	19 Continue the disease spray schedule on roses as black spot and mildew can be extremely damaging in September and October. Treat with Neem Oil and Cueva.	20 Plant bluebonnet seeds in your flower beds. Purchase from Wildseed Farms.	21 Prepare spring flowering bulb beds for later planting this fall. Seed the Texas/Oklahoma wildflower mix that can be purchased through Wildseed Farms.
22	23	24 Watch for the third generation of mesquite webworms attacking mesquite trees and control as needed with Neem Oil.	25	26 Be first in line to select and purchase spring flowering bulbs as soon as they are available. Store bulbs in the refrigerator until the November and December planting times. Seed crimson clover as a cover crop in your garden.	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5

OCTOBER 2024

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29	30	1 Set irrigation controller to run one time every 7-10 days If it is raining, turn controller to off position.	2 Start to move houseplants indoors that have been outside for the summer.	3 Place potted poinsettias in darkness from 6 PM to 8 AM to have red color by Christmas.	4 Continue to divide and transplant popular perennials such as day lilies, liriope, ajuga, iris, and others.	5
6	7	8 Clean all wood from around your house to avoid termites.	9 Plant transplants of pansies, violas, sedum, alyssum, kale, parsley, and collards.	10 Plan landscaping and plant new trees and shrubs where needed. Now is a good time for planting. Trees can establish in cooler weather.	11	12
13 Seed Rebel fescue grass seed in shaded areas around home. Seed at the rate of 1 lb. per 1,000 square feet. Seed can be purchased at Lowe's.	14	15	16	17 Make cuttings on tender plants before frost.	18	19 Collect dried plant material for fall flower arrangements.
20 Dig and store caladium bulbs in a dark, dry area in peat moss or rice hulls after they dry.	21 Now is an excellent time to plant trees and shrubs.	22 Control scale insects on ornamental plants with Neem Oil.	23 Container-grown nursery stock can still be planted, so keep an eye out for those year-end specials.	24 Air layer overgrown leggy houseplants. Check online for examples.	25	26 Plant daffodils, narcissi, crocus, and Dutch iris.
27 Stop shearing shrubs to prevent freeze damage.	28 Don't forget to water plants in the winter when temperatures are above freezing.	29	30	31 HALLOWEEN	1	2

NOVEMBER 2024

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27	28	29	30	31	1 TEXAS ARBOR DAY Set irrigation controller to run one time every two weeks. If it is raining, turn controller to off position.	2 If you need to add landscape to your home, now is an excellent time to plant trees and shrubs.
3 Plant spring flowering bulbs such as daffodils, Dutch iris, and anemones. Chill tulips and hyacinths 4-6 weeks before planting.	4 Remove debris from flower beds and gardens to control diseases and insects.	5 Prepare and plant pansy and viola beds for winter and early spring color.	6 Go out and enjoy the brilliant fall colors in woody lanes.	7 Keep accent urns and jars drained so water will not freeze in them and cause breakage. Continue to plant pansies, snap dragons, pinks, and flowering cabbage. Establish a compost pile to accommodate falling leaves. Root prune wisteria which failed to flower. Watch for aphids as they can build up rapidly on winter annuals.	8	9
10 Make sure heating systems are functioning properly in your greenhouse. Night temperature needs to be 65°F.	11	12	13 AVERAGE FIRST FROST	14	15 Wait to cut back ornamental grasses until spring.	16 Thin prune evergreen trees to prevent ice damage.
17	18	19 Fertilize all perennial beds by putting fertilizer between the plants. Keep away from stems.	20 Continue to supply needed supplemental moisture for newly planted landscape materials.	21	22 Be careful not to overwater houseplants. Water thoroughly when needed and let soil dry between watering. Root-rot can be a problem during the winter months.	23
24	25 Spade all empty beds and allow to lie fallow. This is a good time to improve edging materials.	26 If you like birds in the winter landscape, provide some feeding stations to attract them.	27 This is an excellent time for planting container-grown ground covers, shrubs, and trees.	28 THANKSGIVING DAY Treat soil with Neem Oil for nematode control.	29	30

DECEMBER 2024

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1 Set irrigation controller to the off position.	2 Select your cut Christmas tree early. Re-cut the end and put it in water. Decorate the tree after it has soaked for a few days.	3 If your houseplants are looking tall and spindly, they need more light.	4 If you have not pruned live oaks, do so now to prevent ice damage.	5 Do not allow evergreen plants in the landscape to dry out. Water when the soil is dry.	6 Select horticultural gifts for gardening friends and relatives. Gift certificates are always good.	7 Plan to plant a tree during the Christmas season.
8 Shape hollies and use the pruning for Christmas color.	9	10 Remove and destroy bagworm pouches on junipers. Eggs overwinter in these bags.	11 Water cut Christmas trees daily with warm water.	12 For a unique idea this year, select a living Christmas tree for your home. Afghan Pine, Japanese Black Pine, Austrian Pine, Atlas Cedar and Deodar cedars are excellent.	13	14 Give a Christmas plant, such as a poinsettia, to your best friend. By the way, they are absolutely NOT poisonous to most people.
15 Be careful not to overwater Christmas plants and keep gift plants away from cold drafts.	16	17 Remove grasses from trunks of fruit trees and grapes to prevent damage from mice and other rodents.	18	19	20 Avoid using high-nitrogen fertilizers on plants at this time. Use only high-phosphorus fertilizers.	21
22 Have a soil sample tested to determine proper soil amendments.	23 Plant tulips and hyacinths in prepared beds	24 Control scale insects on plants with Neem oil.	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26 If you are an organic gardener, add composted cow manure to the garden now.	27 Fertilize violas, pansies, and spring flowering perennials and annuals.	28 Select adapted varieties of fruit and landscape trees which will do well in this climate as per the Approved Harvest List.
29	30	31	1	2	3	4