

NATURE HILLS NURSERY

The 2022 Guide to Gardening

#ProPlantTips



by Nature Hills Nursery



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2022 Garden Ready 30



Greetings!

For more than 20 years, Nature Hills Nursery has flourished because of our passion to deliver the very best nursery stock to the homes of our customers. Nature Hills' selection has grown to over ten thousand living and vibrant products that we are proud to plant in our own yards, gardens and orchards.

Over the years we have enlisted the help of horticultural experts and plant enthusiasts to share their expertise in what has come to be known as #ProPlantTips and Garden Blog. These informative narratives are brimming with helpful hints, recommendations, care instructions related to everything from planting to pruning and so much more.

In this Guide to Gardening, you will find that being a perfect gardener is elusive.

One of the hobby's greatest appeals is that each person can shape their own experience from beginning to end. Nature Hills would like to assist by providing a resource when you have questions such as what should I plant where and when? Is this plant native to my area? Is fall the best time to plant?

As a valued member of our online family, we wish to share with you this helpful information as you begin thinking about your landscape for 2022. It's the first of many ebooks we'll share with you going forward.

Thank you for signing up to receive this special gift that will bring years of joy to your backyard oasis. You won't want to miss out on the next in the series to be released in January 2022.

Thank you for being part of the Nature Hills family!

Jeff
CEO / Co-Founder
Nature Hills Nursery, Inc.

Starting With the Soil

Well-Drained Soil: What Does it Mean

How to Know If You Have Well-Drained Soil



Step One

Dig a hole about a foot deep and a foot wide.

Step Two

Fill the hole up with water.



Step Three

Wait - If the water drains in less than 10 minutes, you have a well draining landscape. If the water takes over an hour to drain completely, then you poor drained soil.



Have Bad Drainage? What Now?

Two words; raised beds. They are the secret key to all things drainage problems! You can create a mix of soil that is well-draining for your flower bed or vegetable garden. You can even control the pH levels for those hydrangeas who enjoy changing colors. No landscape designer degree required!



4 Quick Tips To Overall Improve Your Soil



1. *Keep the ground covered*

Use mulch to conserve water, reduce weeds, and add organic material back to the soil. Plus it looks great!



2. *Let it rot*

Make sure compost is sufficiently decomposed before adding to your beds. Undecomposed material building up next to your plant reduces drainage.



3. *Invest in a Soil Test*

Soil test kits help you identify soil composition. Learning the pH, texture, and nutrients of your soil is a great place to start when creating a garden.

4. *Watch Your Plants*



Keep an eye on your plants, they'll tell you everything you need to know about the soil.

Want to Learn More
About Soil?

Read

Well-Drained Soil:

What Does It Mean?



Soil Amendments and Fertilizers 101



Soil Requirements



Every product page on our website has Plant Highlights listed. You'll learn the optimal growing conditions for your plants, including sun exposure, water, and soil requirements.

Soil pH Scale

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14

Acidic Soil 1-5

-results in poor plant growth in most cases due to limited nutrients and higher levels of toxic elements

Neutral Soil 6-8

-typically the best for plants

Alkaline Soil 8-14

-often have nutrient deficiencies because the soil itself has trouble absorbing them and allowing them to get absorbed by the plants
-usually have high levels of sodium

#ProPlantTips: Reading Nutrient Labels

N = Nitrogen

Nitrogen is all about green foliage development.

P = Phosphorus

Phosphorus helps plants develop both roots and flower buds.

K = Potassium

Potassium supports overall growth by helping move nutrients and water through the plant.





When Will It Ship?

	Spring	Summer	Fall
Trees	✓	⚠	✓
Shrubs	✓	⚠	✓
Perennials	✓	⚠	✓
Roses	✓	⚠	✓
Fall Planting Bulbs	⛔	⛔	✓



Boost the Roots When Planting

Adding [Nature Hills Root Booster](#) or [Fertilome Root Stimulator & Plant Starter Solution](#) to your planting hole gives you an easy-to-use mycorrhizal inoculant. Your plants will develop a bigger, more efficient root system that will promote the health of your plant! It will also improve your soil naturally, and help your plants gain access to nutrients and moisture.

Want to Learn More
About Fertilizer?

Read
[*Soil Amendments and
Fertilizers 101*](#)



Getting to the Gardening

How to Grow Healthy Plants



1. Hardiness Zone Rating



2. Soil Quality

3. Amount of Sunlight

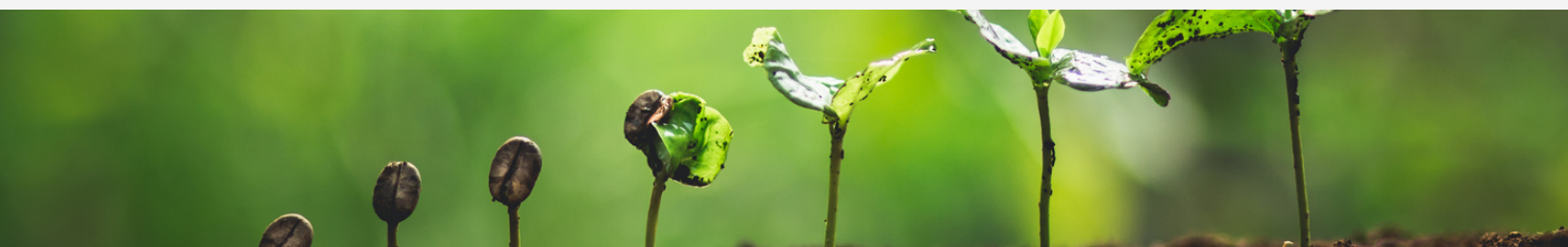


“Why is My Plant Dying?”

Struggling plants are often trying to live in an area that isn't optimal for them. They can look just terrible and may never really thrive. That's not what you want in your landscape.

“What is a Growing Zone?”

A growing zone is the range of land a plant is able to thrive in. Select plants that will be happiest in your USDA Growing Zone.





Sunlight

1. How much sun or shade you'll be planting in?
2. How much sun your plant will need?

FULL SUN

6+ hours of direct sunlight per day



PARTIAL SHADE

4-6 hours of direct sunlight per day



FULL SHADE

2-4 hours of direct sunlight per day



Want to Learn More?

Read

[How to Grow Healthy Plants](#)





Good Air Circulation

Fresh air helps prevent the growth of certain fungus, bacteria and molds. Planting sites with poor air circulation can introduce diseases and stress your plants.

How To Site Your Plant Correctly

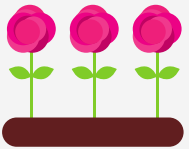


Step One: Study Up!

Study the mature size when selecting your plants.

Step Two: Set Location Strategically

You'll want to know your property, because where you plant can also affect how your plants perform.



Step 3: Give Them Some Space

Install plants far enough apart to accommodate the size of the plant as it grows and develops.

How Close Is Too Close?

Each plant flows continuously into the next by being placed exactly as far as the mature spread reaches. Ensure you have good air exposure on either side of your hedge. This will help you grow a healthy hedge.

Want to Know More
About Air Circulation?

Read

*Don't Stress Your Plant
With Bad Air Circulation*





The True Cost of Low Priced Plants

Fundamentals of Cost



1. You get what you pay for

While times have changed, and the cost of goods overall has risen, for the most part, this old saying is still true.



2. You only pay for quality once

Quality plants are a gift that keeps on giving. They can save you the extra costs of everything from fertilizer to replacements.



3. Bigger isn't always better

When it comes to getting your money's worth, size does matter. Keep in mind smaller looking plants may be focusing on root growth beneath the soil.

Shipping With Plant Sentry™

The battle against invasive species is never ending in the gardening industry. That's why it is very important to handle each plant with extra care and caution. Plant Sentry™ is a comprehensive plant compliance solution that works to prevent the spread of these invasive species every day. So what exactly is a "comprehensive plant compliance" tool? What does Plant Sentry™ do to prevent the spread? If you're curious and want to know the answer to these questions, visit plantsentry.com today!





Plan Your Garden By Planting In Threes

#ProPlantTips:

The number of plants is directly related to the amount of space you're working with. Planting in groups of three leads to a more natural feel and is very pleasing to the eye.

OTHER EVEN PLANTING OPTIONS



TWO PLANTS
ADD SOMETHING ELSE



FOUR PLANTS
THREE & ONE



SIX PLANTS
THREE & THREE

WHY PLANT IN THREES?

SUBSTITUTE THREE WITH FIVE, OR SEVEN FOR LARGER AREAS

PLANT IN TRIADS



PLANT SEVEN



PLANT FIVE



Want to Learn More Garden
Layout #proplanttips?

Read

*Plan Your Garden By
Planting In Threes*






The Right Way To Water Your Plants

1. *Learn Moisture Requirements*
2. *Type of soil*
3. *Mulch*
4. *Use the finger test*
5. *Water at the base*
6. *Use native plants*


#ProPlantTips:

Use native plants to keep your garden's water consumption down. Native plants are plants that can be found naturally in your region. This usually means they're adapted to thriving off of the natural amounts of water in your area. Skip the hassle of watering altogether when you pick sustainable plants!


PLANT WATERING TIPS




WATER AT THE ROOTS
Do not spray water at the leaves of any of your plants



USE MULCH
Mulch conserves water and protects roots from both high and low temperatures



WATER IN THE MORNING
This allows for the plant to dry quickly if water gets on to the leaves



USE THE FINGER TEST
Feel the soil. If the soil is moist, skip the watering, but if it is dry, go ahead and water





Watering to Establish

In almost every case, watering well and watering deeply during the first growing season after planting is especially important and the key to the success. There are some plants such as lavender that do not like a lot of water.

Trees will eventually grow root systems that do a good job of finding water on their own but growing roots takes time! Until then, it's a good idea to thoroughly soak your tree often.

During the first couple weeks, water up to once daily. After those critical weeks have passed you'll notice your plants will become less dependent on your water frequency. Until the roots are entirely established, you should be watering your tree about once per week.

Want to Learn More
About Watering?

Read

*The Right Way To Water
Your Plants*

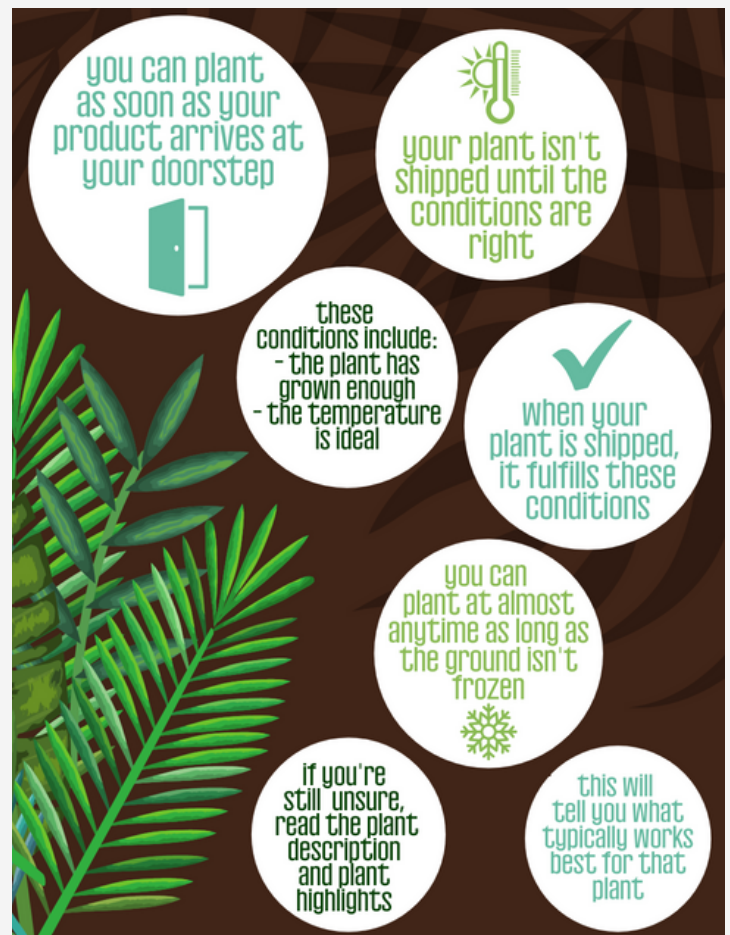




Best Time to Plant

Here at Nature Hills, we get questions all the time wondering when the best time to plant during the year is. And the short answer is-- whenever the plant arrives on your doorstep! You can sit back, relax and wait for the plant to come to you. Then, you know the conditions are permitting a prime planting time. Let's break this logic down even further!

We grow many plants, from deciduous trees to evergreen shrubs, in containers so that you can open the door to shipping and planting all throughout the growing season with complete success.



Want to Know More About The Right Time to Plant?

Read our [#proplanttips](#) blog for

[When Is The Best Time To Plant?](#)



Different Kinds of Gardens

Cutting Gardens

It's not so much about how the garden looks outside. It's about how the flowers will look in a vase in your kitchen. There are a few varieties you can't go wrong with having in your cutting garden bed:

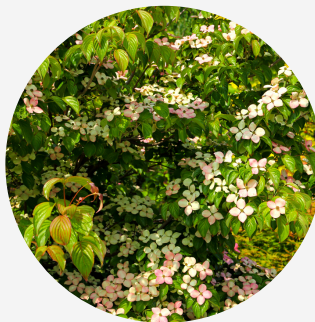
Roses



Lilacs



Dogwood Shrubs



Hydrangeas



Learn All of the Details Here!

Must Haves for a
Cutting Garden





Pre-Planned Shade Gardens

Do you have a patch of shade and are not sure what will survive in those tricky conditions? There are so many shade garden plant options these days, and it can be overwhelming just to know where to start! Get your garden bench or hammock ready because this will become your new favorite respite from the sun and summer heat!

Bold & Gold Shade Garden

Chartreuse greens and gold are unusual colors to find in a shade garden! But, you'll want all the brightness and glitz possible for a gloomy area.

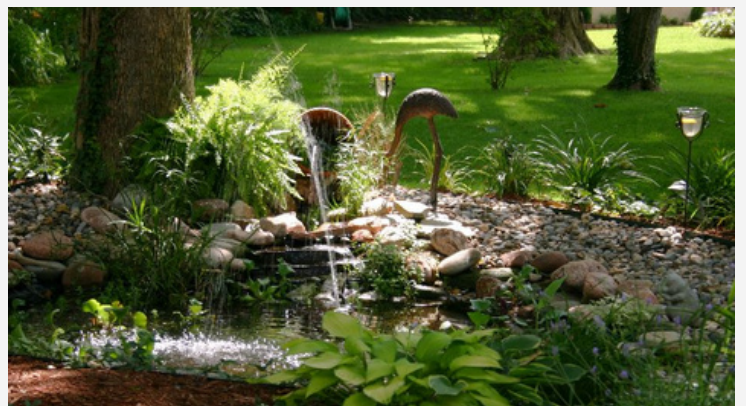


Cool Calming & Tranquil Hues

Maybe you don't want your shade garden to stand out and sparkle? Perhaps this is your meditation and Zen area where you go to unwind and decompress? If that's the case, you'll want the soothing colors of blues, lavenders, silver, grey and deep-green leaves.

What Plants Do You Need
For Your Shade Garden?

Pre-Planned Shade Garden
Recipes for Success!





Pollinator Gardens

Flowering and native plants are normally purchased for their charm and the allure they bring to a garden. But what most people don't realize is their hidden gem of attracting pollinators but also beneficial insects to your yard!

First Editions' Choices

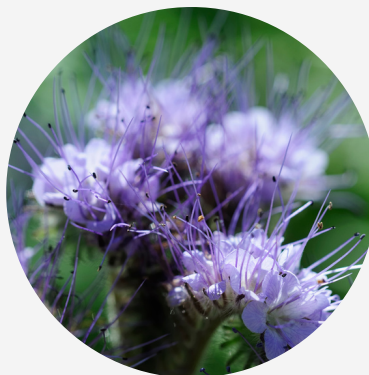
Vanilla Strawberry
Hydrangea



Plum Magic
Crape Myrtle



Sapphire Surf
Bluebeard

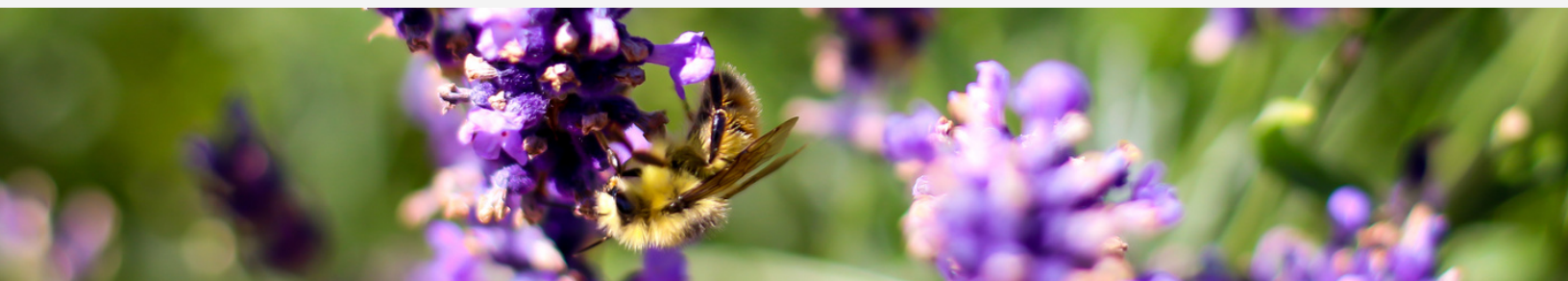


Superstar
Spirea



Read Our Pollinator Week
Blog to Learn more!

First Editions' Top
Pollinating Plants





Container Gardens

Long-lasting hardy perennial container gardens work all year-long and will save you money. Ensure the containers have good drainage, high quality potting soil and follow the directions to apply fertilizer. Here's how to create a perennial garden planting that works in all seasons:

Step one: Get to Know Your Growing Conditions

How much room to grow will you have to work with? Take measurements of the depth, width and height of your available space

Step two: Understand the Genius of Your Space

Plants have different care requirements. How cold are your winters? Are your summers hot and dry or is the humidity off the charts?

Step three: Add Creative Structure

Garden styles are a reflection of their owners. What is your garden personality? Take a look and see what best describes the look you want to achieve.

Want to know more about
container gardening?

Read

*Get 365 Gorgeous Days With
Hardy Container Gardens*



#ProPlantTips for Care

How to Plant...

There are six steps to follow when planting:



1. *Select your plant*

2. *Choose a location*

3. *Dig your hole*



4. *Remove the plant from container*

5. *Place in the ground and backfill with Soil*

6. *Water in well and mulch*

Read These Blogs to Learn More About How to Plant Them!

Bareroots



Fruit Trees



Magnolia Trees



Hydrangeas





How to Prune Hydrangeas

PANICLE HYDRANGEAS

- Prune in early spring
- Shorten last years growth by 1/3
- Remove crossing branches and eliminate dead, damaged, and thin stems
- New buds will form below the cut and the bush will become more full



OAKLEAF HYDRANGEAS

- Prune right after flowering
- **DO NOT PRUNE IN EARLY SPRING!**
- Light pruning is all that's needed
- Take 1/3 of total growth or less to avoid cutting off next year's blossoms
- Remove dead or diseased wood or broken branches



SMOOTH HYDRANGEAS

- Prune in early spring
- Should be pruned right down to the ground
- Failure to prune results in it to be top-heavy and flop to the ground



BIGLEAF HYDRANGEAS

- Prune right after they bloom
- **DO NOT PRUNE IN FALL, WINTER OR SPRING**
- Remove the dead tips and old flower heads after the plant starts to grow



Learn All of the Details Here!

#ProPlantTips: How to Prune Hydrangeas

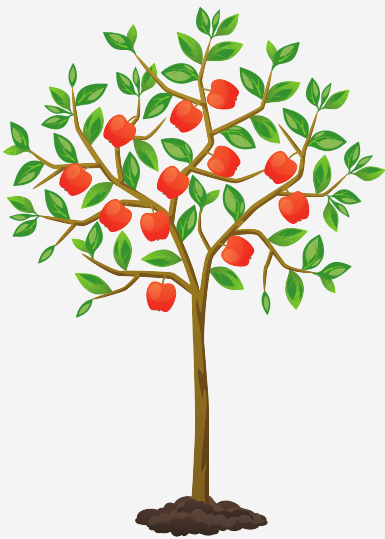




How to Prune Fruit Trees

Pruning fruit trees stimulates growth by limiting the number of buds that the tree has to grow. Directing growth, energy and nutrients into the fruiting limbs.

What to Remove



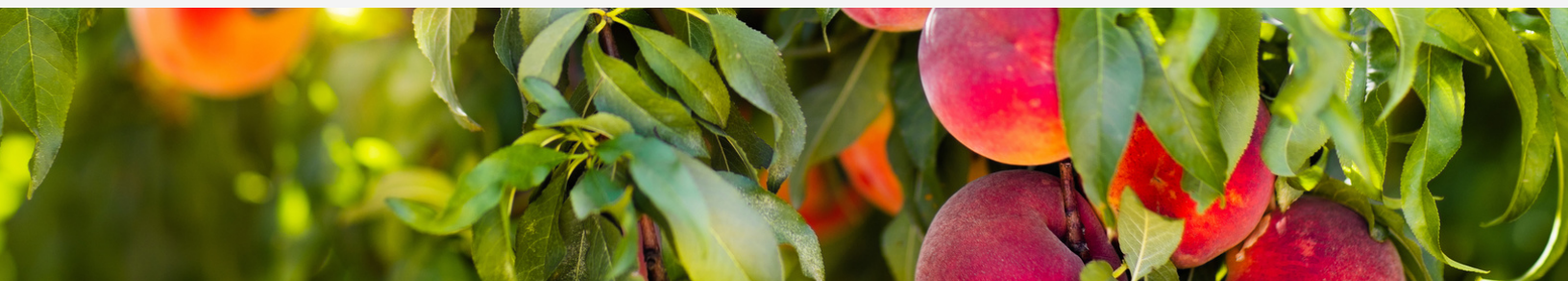
1. *Some fruit*
2. *Water sprout*
3. *Crossing branches*
4. *Broken branches*
5. *Dead branches*
6. *Diseased branches*



7. *Growth arising below the graft junctions*
8. *Suckers growing from the base of trunk and roots*

Learn All of the Details Here!

*Pruning Fruit Trees Creates
Better Crops & Healthy Trees!*





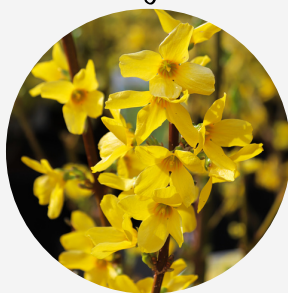
Timing for Pruning Flowering Shrubs

WAIT to prune these until **AFTER** they are done blooming!

Lilac



Forsythia



Weigela



Viburnum

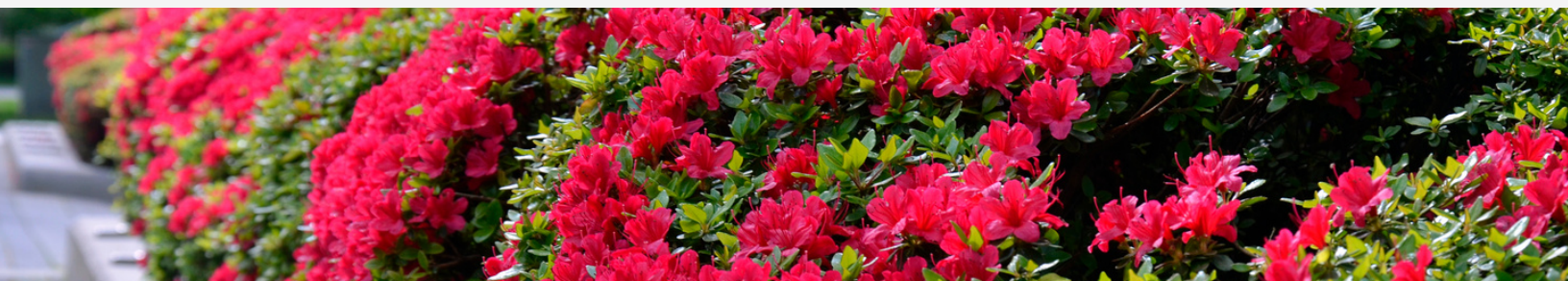


Azalea



Learn More About Pruning
Flowering Shrubs Below!

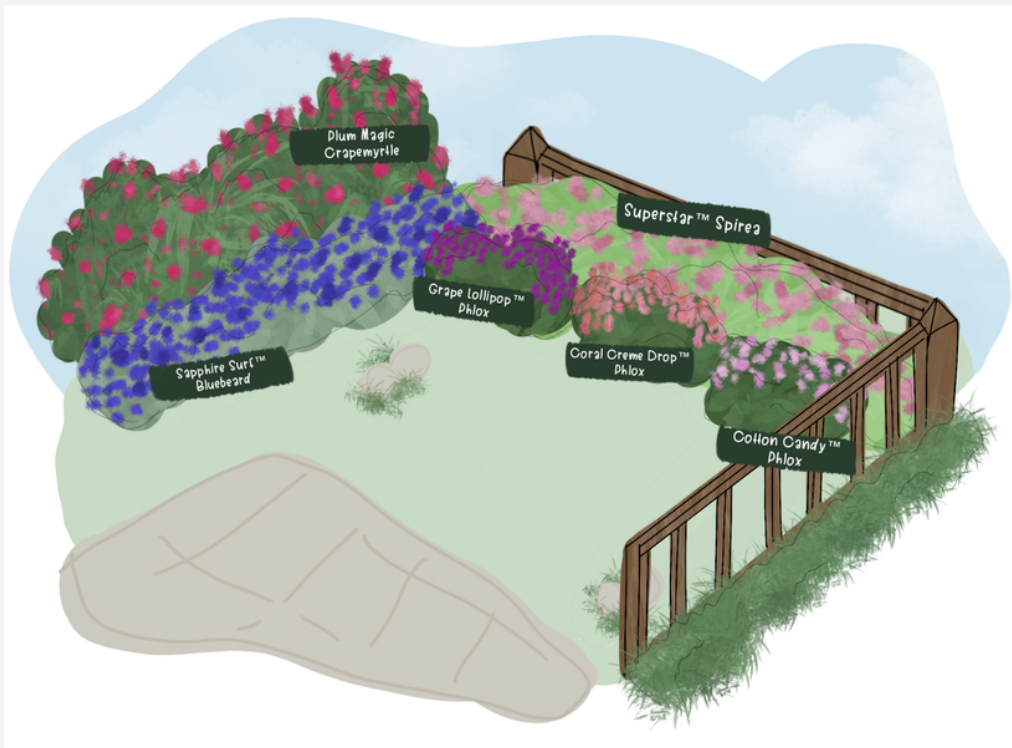
*Timing for Pruning
Flowering Shrubs*



#ProPlantTips to Put it All Together

Create a Destination Spot

To make the backyard a site to see, we've put together the ideal guide to creating a destination spot in the landscape. Relax and enjoy creating a backyard paradise.



Want to Know More?

Read

Create A Destination
Spot In Your Landscape



Best Plants for All Your Spaces

Best Ferns For Your Home

Ferns will be your new best friend with their capability to add the perfect dash of elegance to your garden, patio, or indoor living area. There are a variety of different colors, shapes, and sizes to pick from and we're here to fill you in on all their unique details that will have you wanting to order more than just one of these quintessential plants.

Burgundy Lace Painted Fern



Lady in Red Fern



Boston Fern



Ostrich Fern



Foxtail Fern



Learn More About Ferns!

Best Ferns For Your Home





Our Favorite Front and Back Yard Trees

Your front yard is the place where your guests and neighbors make their first impression about your house, so having a tree in the front yard that makes a statement is essential. Consider some of these trees for that perfect front-yard pop that is sure to make a statement all year round.

Bloodgood Japanese Maple



Weeping Cherry



Brandywine Maple Tree



Chaste Tree



American Beech



Learn More About Our Top
Favorite Front Yard Trees!

Our Favorite Front and
Back Yard Trees





Less Room, More Plants



Helmond Pillar Barberry.

Even if you don't want to eat the shrubbery, there's an astounding spectrum of weeping and columnar alternatives available to those caught in a tight spot!

Improved Dwarf Meyer Lemon

The compact varieties and downsized plant offerings are almost as infinite as their larger cousins.



Engelmann Ivy Virginia Creeper

Vines and climbing Roses raise a garden to new heights! You'll love the many options that grow upwards toward the sky.

Learn All About Small Space Gardening Here!

Less Room, More Plants With
Small Space Gardening.





Drought-Tolerant Plants for the Landscape

Drought-tolerant isn't a synonym for NO watering. Being drought-tolerant means that the plant will produce some new roots soon after planting and will find food and water on their own. Until your new plants make those new roots, they will be dependent upon you for water.

Russian Sage



The Blues Little
Bluestem Grass

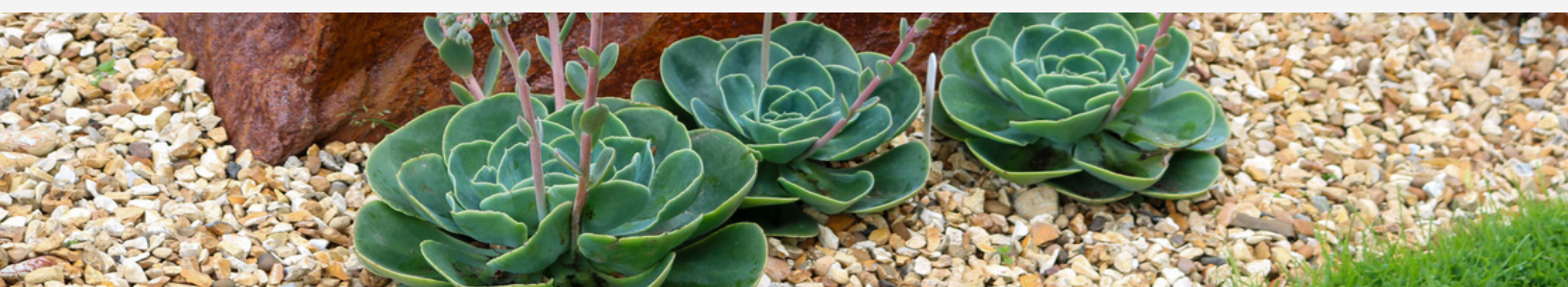


Firewitch Dianthus



Learn More About Drought
Tolerant Plants!

Drought Tolerant Plants
For The Landscape





Best Fruit Trees for Your Colder Climate

Colder climates can be rough on many fruit trees and bushes, resulting in diminishing harvests from damage done over the winter. Fortunately, many fruit trees aren't limited to warmer climates alone.



Empire Apple Tree

A mix of the Red Delicious and the Macintosh apples, the Empire Apple Tree has quality proven by its heritage.

Burbank Plum

A mid-season ripener with rich taste, the Burbank Plum is endorsed by master plant breeders and is easy to care for.



Montmorency Cherry

The Montmorency Cherry Tree produces fruit that many consider the best for any cherry pie recipe.

Learn All About Cold Hardy
Fruit Trees!

Best Fruit Trees for Your
Colder Climate





2022 Garden Ready!

Congratulations! Now you're ready to plant the garden of your dreams! Maybe even a couple dream gardens! Your spring garden can't wait to be planned and planted! And we can't wait to see how your masterpiece turns out!

Here's What You've Learned

- Soil quality basic knowledge
- How to keep your plants happy and healthy
- Plant Pricing
- Garden design and structure
- Best practices for watering and planting
- #ProPlantTips for planting and pruning
- Best plants for all of your spaces
- Small space gardening
- Creating a patio/outdoor living space

Let's Grow Together!

