

## PLANT RANCH NURSERY

### THINGS TO DO IN APRIL

- 1.** Repair dead or damaged spots in the lawn with sod, plugs or seedlings. Keep lawn watered well if the weather is dry. To establish a new lawn, water frequently but lightly for the first two weeks. Then, gradually decrease the frequency and length of irrigation.
- 2.** This also is the month to begin mowing lawns in Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia. Grass mowed too low has a short root system and is more easily damaged during dry weather. It's also weaker and more likely to have serious weed problems. As a rule of thumb, St. Augustine grass should be mowed at 2 (dwarf varieties) to 3 (standard varieties) inches, Bahia at 3 to 4 inches and centipede at 1 1/2 inches.
- 3.** Sand may be applied to uneven areas of a lawn for leveling. The sand should not be more than 1 inch thick, or it may damage the lawn.
- 4.** Begin watching roses for black spot fungus disease, small black spots on the leaves that quickly worsen. Control it by spraying every 7 to 10 days with a fungicide.
- 5.** If the weather is dry, water your lawn. Apply approximately 3/4 to 1 inch of water at each watering as needed. Water only when blades fold. The water should be applied no more than two times per week. The best time is between 4 a.m. and 9 a.m., before temperatures rise and water evaporates in the air.
- 6.** There are many variables on water needs because of differences in soil type, shade and other factors. When grass blades fold in late afternoon, water the next morning. To detect dryness in woody plants, pay special attention to azaleas. When their leaves droop, it's an indication that soil is drying out, and they need watering. Water woody plants no more than once per week.
- 7.** Recycle grass clippings by not catching them when the lawn is mowed. Removing the clippings carries off fertilizer that has been applied to the lawn. Grass clippings don't cause thatch to build up if only the top third of grass is removed when mowing. Almost all yard trash can be used as mulch or in a compost pile.
- 8.** Divide overcrowded fall flowering perennials and bulbs.
- 9.** Cut back ornamental grasses just before new growth begins to emerge. Evergreen grasses such as muhly grass should be trimmed removing brown leaves and leaf tips.