



# Jungle Taming, LLC

## Monthly Horticultural Tasks

Written by Amy Bledsoe; Distributed by Jungle Taming, LLC  
December, 2011



*Monthly Horticultural Tasks* is a free newsletter brought to you each month by Jungle Taming, LLC, an upscale yard restoration landscaping company proudly serving the Columbia, SC area. For more information, visit [www.JungleTaming.com](http://www.JungleTaming.com).

### Annuals

Continue to water cool season annuals. Garden centers are stocked with poinsettias this time of year. Be sure to protect them from drafts from doors, windows and heat vents. If they are wrapped in foil, be sure to remove or puncture the foil to allow water to drain - they can easily drown if this is not done. Poinsettias are tropical plants native to Mexico, and cannot tolerate our winters if planted outside. It is best to throw them away when the season is over.



Poinsettia



### Turf

Relax! Enjoy the break from the heat and mowing.

### Perennials

Most perennials have gone dormant for winter by now. Some exceptions are Lenten Rose, Japanese Tassel Ferns, Holly Ferns, Autumn Ferns, Thyme, Hardy Ice Plants, Heucheras, some daylilies, Cast Iron Plants, Sedums, Carex, Acorus Grass, some Dianthus, Creeping Raspberry, Ivy, and Wire Vine.

### Roses

Do not fertilize roses this month. If ordering from a rose catalog, place your order before the end of the month to have them to plant in March.

### Shrubs

Shrubs such as junipers, hollies, false hollies, and rosemary have been used as in seasonal decorations in wreaths, on mantles, and over doorways by southerners for years. Keep these cutting from drying out too fast by placing them away from heat vents and by using **anti-transpirants**, which are sold under names like Wilt Proof in garden centers. They coat the foliage with a thin, waxy layer that prohibits transpiration (lose of water) from leaves. Simply spray on the cuttings, and let dry before using them as decorations.



## **Trees**

The first Friday in December is South Carolina's Arbor Day. School children traditionally plant trees at school on this day to celebrate the beginning of optimum tree planting season. December through March is the best time in South Carolina to plant trees. Did you know that trees planted on the western side of a building can lower summer cooling costs?



**Plant A Tree**

Trees contribute so much to our world. Trees are sources of jobs, food, shade, oxygen, building materials, rayon, ice cream (Yes, ice cream!), paper, rubber and wood products. Trees increase property values, provide homes for wildlife and give kids a place to climb and swing. All this is in addition to adding beauty to our world! There are an abundance of good reasons to plant a tree.

## **Picking the Right Tree**

Consider carefully your choice of tree and the site where it's to be planted. Its mature size needs to be evaluated in conjunction with overhead wires, adjacent buildings and walkways. When planting near driveways, be sure the tree's mature size does not obscure visibility.

## **Planting Guidelines**

When handling a tree, never carry it by the trunk. Rather, hold it by the container and support the root ball. Dig a hole two to three times the width of the root ball, but no deeper than the root ball's depth. Gently loosen the roots of the tree before placing in the hole. Backfill the hole, gently tamping to firm the soil. When the hole is half filled, water to help settle the soil; finish filling the hole. A berm placed around the perimeter of the root ball will help keep water confined to the root zone when watering. Mulch around the tree (not on it) to a depth of three to four inches. Hand water daily for two weeks, and then every other day for an additional two weeks. After that, water twice a week. Do not depend on an irrigation system for newly planted trees. Irrigation systems are designed to water established plants. Continue to water the tree throughout the winter.

*Amy Bledsoe is an International Certified Arborist, Certified Environmental Landscaper and Landscape Designer for the City of Columbia, She was the recipient of the 2002 Horticulture Student of the Year award from the SC Nursery and Landscape Association. She's a Certified Nursery Professional, and has been in the horticultural industry for several years as a garden center employee, lecturer, consultant, and designer. She serves as an advisor to the Columbia Green board, and is a member of the SC Nursery and Landscape Association and the Greater Columbia Landscape Association. She has consulted on gardening articles for Columbia Metropolitan magazine, and The State newspaper, appeared on ETV's "Making It Grow", and also been a radio guest on "The Andy Thomas Show" to answer on air gardening questions.*

**Jungle Taming, LLC** is an upscale yard and garden restoration company that specializes in pruning, cultivating and uncovering hidden beauty from overgrown landscapes. Call Jungle Taming for fence line cleaning, ivy and weed removal, bed improvement, trimming and cleaning shrubs, tree trimming, debris removal, herbicide application and much, much more.

Owner Bill Kunze, certified in Landscape Management, has over 15 years of hands-on experience in the Midlands area. For more information, contact Jungle Taming at (803) 463-2655 or email [info@JungleTaming.com](mailto:info@JungleTaming.com). Or visit the website: [www.JungleTaming.com](http://www.JungleTaming.com).

To include Horticultural Tasks in YOUR newsletter, contact Anne Reynolds at (803) 429-3031 or email [annie1@mindspring.com](mailto:annie1@mindspring.com).