



# Jungle Taming, LLC

## Monthly Horticultural Tasks

Written by Amy Bledsoe; Distributed by Jungle Taming, LLC  
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*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

To save money this spring, start your annuals indoors from seed. Flower seeds are very inexpensive and come in a wide variety of choices. In Columbia, our last frost date is around March 21st. Seed packet instructions indicate how many weeks from time of sowing to outdoor planting are needed. Count backwards from March 21st to see when the seeds should be sown. The last frost date is a guideline, and actual weather conditions may not cooperate: Check the local forecast before planting outdoors!



### Helpful tips:

- Use potting soil, not topsoil to grow your seeds.
- Moisten potting soil before planting seeds.
- Use clear plastic produce bags from grocery store purchases to enclose seed trays - this will create a mini-greenhouse effect for the seeds. Watch carefully, though! The bag should be removed at the first sign of emerging seedlings to prevent a fungal disease caused by too much moisture which could kill young seedlings.
- To help the seedlings germinate, place the seed tray on top of the refrigerator, wasted space in many homes. The refrigerator will generate warm bottom heat which seedlings love. Be sure to use a cookie sheet or pie tin to catch any water runoff.



### Turf

Enjoy the break from the heat and mowing, and plan for any spring soil improvement. Have you had a soil sample taken in the last three years? It takes about three months for the pH level of the soil to change, so a soil test now will allow for adjustments to be made to the soil prior to spring growth. Clemson Extension has a wonderful website at [www.clemson.edu](http://www.clemson.edu) with instructions for taking soil samples. Take separate samples for a flower bed versus the turf grass. Soil tests should be taken to the extension office located near Clemson Road at Two Notch Road. The cost is just \$6 per sample.



## Perennials

- January is the perfect time to cut back liriopse, also known as monkey grass. It can become filled with leaf debris or just look unkempt, so an annual cut back is beneficial. Use a weed eater to cut back to two inches above the soil. Rake away debris and remove.
- Monitor daylilies for aphids. Because Columbia typically has mild winters, aphids can overwinter in daylilies that have not gone completely dormant. Treat for aphids with insecticidal soap.
- January is a perfect month to enjoy early-blooming daffodils. No daffodils in the yard? Start planning where to plant them in the fall. The best places are where they can be viewed from inside the house through a window.
- Another January/February blooming perennial are Lenten roses. This plant is not a rose, as the name implies, but a terrific evergreen plant for shade.



## Roses

Do not fertilize roses this month.

## Shrubs

It is still a good time to plant shrubs. Check hollies or camellias for evidence of scale infestation, appearing as non-moving white or light gray specs on the underside of leaves or stems. Treat with dormant oil which works to smother this insect.



## Trees

It is prime time to plant a tree.

*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).*

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