



TJ'S NURSERY HERALD



January 2011

Cold weather and saturated soil is greeting us this January. Let's not complain too much because this will give us a chance to sit back and contemplate the up coming gardening year. Now is a good time to look through those gardening catalogues that the post man will be stuffing our mail boxes with or spending time on the internet finding those new plants we all would like to ad to our gardens.

Rain free days this January may be few and far between so we need to take advantage of them if possible to clean up around the shrubs and trees that will be bringing us their bounty this spring through fall. The first dormant spray should already have been applied and for those few people who have not heard lime sulfur as a dormant spray is no longer available. As of now we must use copper and be sure the timing is right.

Spraying your edibles in your yard are not the only plants that need dormant spray, roses and other deciduous shrubs can benefit from dormant spray. Spraying roses help to control diseases such as black spot and rust, also dormant spray applied to the ground around shrubs helps to control over wintering insects and diseases.

As long you are spraying your roses now is a good time to prune them also. Prune out any old dead canes and re shape the rose to best fit your space. Ground cover and shrub roses also need a good trimming this time of year. It is too early to fertilize them but getting them prepared for the upcoming warm weather is good.

Frost protection is still one of the things to be considered in the month of January and February. If you used the new product Freeze Pruf it should be reapplied this month as it only lasts 4 to 6 weeks. If some of your plants are showing symptoms of frost damage to them resist the urge to prune off any ugly looking material. You can still have more damage show up later and excessive pruning or cleaning up of damaged material can open up the plant to even more

damage as we continue to have cold nights.

A nice layer of 1 to 2 inches of compost or mulch added to your shrub beds at this time of the year can act as a blanket for the root zone of shrubs and help to keep the micro bacteria active and healthy so they can do their job of breaking down organic matter and releasing it to the plants for good root growth over the winter.

If you have mole problems in the spring and summer an application of a mole repellent such as mole max now can start to give the insects the bad flavor that will make them less desirable for the moles to eat. When the moles don't like the food that is on the table they will leave the area and find a better place to dine then in your garden.

Slugs and snails will soon be a problem so in areas where these pesky mollusks like to over winter an application of a non-rain affected bait will help curtail their early spring activities.

