



# CENTRAL

## LANDSCAPE & GARDEN SUPPLIES

# Digger Dan's Monthly Garden Tips July 2009

### Trees and Shrubs

- ✓ Prune deciduous trees and shrubs, including hydrangeas.
- ✓ Spray deciduous trees with lime sulphur to control scale insect and lichen.
- ✓ Plant trees and shrubs.

### The Edible Garden

- ✓ Prune apple and pear trees and spray with Super Copper and Spraying Oil.
- ✓ Plant strawberry plants, citrus and deciduous fruit trees.
- ✓ In mild climates plant early potatoes, garlic, onions and shallots. Sow peas and broad beans.
- ✓ When the weather is dry prepare the vegetable garden for spring crops: apply dolomite lime and start building up the soil with compost.

### Containers

- ✓ Plant pots of instant colour such as pansies and polyanthus.
- ✓ Move succulents and other frost tender plants to a sheltered position.
- ✓ Place pot feet or bricks under large containers to assist drainage.
- ✓ Move houseplants to a warmer location

### Roses

- ✓ Plant new roses (*see "Rose Planting" below*)

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- ✓ July is the main pruning time for roses, but wait until August in very cold climates. While harsher pruning can mean fewer blooms, too little pruning leads to poorer quality, smaller blooms.
- ✓ Clear away rose leaf litter to help prevent problems in summer. Leaf debris and surrounding weeds provide a refuge for the perpetrators of next summer's pests and diseases.
- ✓ Spray after pruning with a copper spray mixed with spraying oil. The oil will get rid of overwintering insect eggs while the copper kills disease spores.

## **Lawn**

- ✓ Mow the lawn only on dry days to avoid damaging the turf.
- ✓ Use insecticide on lawn and soil borne insects, such as grass grub.
- ✓ Lawn restoration should be planned for early Spring.

## **Rose Planting**

The winter planting season's stock of the latest and greatest rose varieties arrives in garden centres in early June. Loads more are available via mail order and the internet. If you buy bare root roses, carefully remove the packaging, trim any damaged roots, then soak in a bucket of water while you prepare the ground.

Choose a sunny location with good air flow. Stagnant humid air is very attractive to pests and diseases. Avoid soil where roses have grown previously. Find a new planting site or dig a large hole and backfill with fresh soil.

Roses give their best in soil which holds onto its water. Provided it's sufficiently drained, a clay based soil is ideal. Any soil will be improved by digging in loads of compost. Alternatively for each rose bush you plant, add a bucket load of compost to a generous sized planting hole and mix it through with slow release fertiliser.

On very heavy soils which are poorly drained, roses will do well in raised beds filled with top quality top soil. Any planting mix must have good water holding capacity.

Plant roses so that the bud union sits just above ground level. Fill and firm the soil around the plant and water thoroughly. Trim each branch with slanting cuts just above an outward facing bud. Cover the soil after planting with a 5 to 10cm layer of organic mulch.

*Suggested Products: Screened Topsoil, Compost, Garden Mixes and Mulches are available from your local Central Landscape & Garden Supplies yard – bulk and bags, pickup or delivery as well as free loan trailers*

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