

“Ask The Plant Groom™ by Dale Groom, The Plant Groom™

For: QA1035

I want to plant some mums in our landscape and have no experience, what do you suggest? – G. K.

Look for a location in your landscape that receives morning sun and afternoon shade. The soil should be well amended and raised so that it will drain.

Add 6” of organic matter and blend with the top 6” of native soil to create an ideal planting bed. Look for plants that are short, compact and loaded with buds. Do not select plants that are tall, leggy, or have open flowers.

Install your selections at the same level they are growing in their containers. Water thoroughly and mulch 3 – 4” deep with your favorite bark mulch. Water as needed to maintain a moist soil and ... enjoy.

Is it OK to plant pansies now? – F. T.

It's too hot to plant pansies now. Night and day temperatures are usually acceptable in October. November is a great time to install these beauties.

Let me suggest you also look at planting snapdragons and flowering cabbage this fall.

We have some rather large hibiscus plants in containers that have been great all season. If we protect them will they make it through the winter outside? – H. F.

All tropical hibiscus plants of any size should be protected from freezing temperatures. This may be done in heated green houses, garden rooms or other structures to prevent freezing temperatures from damaging or terminating the plants.

If plants are wrapped or in some other way “protected” and left outside in all but our costal areas and the Rio Grande valley they will be terminated by winter temperatures.

If you enjoy hibiscus and want new blooms each season without providing winter protection from freezing temperatures let me suggest using hardy hibiscus and/or althea. These beauties are very winter hardy.

I remember hearing about winterizing for the lawn. When and how should this be done? Thank you. - H. K.

Winterizing our Texas lawns is one of the easy activities we do for. Here's how to winterize. Apply a lawn fertilizer that has Winterizer printed on the label according to label directions. That's it.

The time to winterize our lawns is September. Remember, read and follow label directions when using any gardening aid including fertilizers.

This past winter and spring we had lots of weeds in our lawn and would like to know what can be done this year. – D. H.

Apply pre-emergents now to prevent cool/cold season weed problems in Texas lawns.

The two groups of annual weeds we deal with in our lawns are grassy and broadleaf. Be sure to inform the retailer you purchase products from which types of weeds you want to control. This will aid them in counseling you on the products they have available to target your specific weed problem(s).

As with any garden aid, read and follow label directions when applying pre-emergents. Remember, timing is critical to achieve best results in preventing weeds.

Dandelion, henbit and chickweed are examples of cool season broadleaf weeds. Annual bluegrass is an example of a grassy weed.

Dale Groom, Extension Horticulturist -Dallas County, Author, Columnist, Radio/TV Host is also known state wide as The Plant Groom™. Send your lawn, garden and landscape columns to [dalegroom@mycvc.net](mailto:dalegroom@mycvc.net).

Copyright 2005 by Groom Media and all rights are reserved.

