



The 3 P's of Winter Gardening

We are lucky to live in Florida! There is no need to put away your gardening tools, in fact keep them out and put them to use during our cool weather. To help you decide what to do in the winter, here are our 3 P's of Winter Gardening in Florida: Pruning, Planting and Protecting.

Pruning

- Always sharpen, oil and clean clippers
- Prune these plants in the winter time: crape myrtles, hollies, ligustrums (and other hardy shrubs), roses, low-chill fruit trees.
- Avoid pruning these plants: camellias, azaleas and any tropical plants

Planting

- Winter-blooming Plants: camellias, pansies, petunias, roses, dianthus and more
- Shade Trees: oaks, crape myrtles, elms and more
- Frost tolerant shrubs: azaleas, camellias, ligustrums and viburnums
- Only plant tropical plants or anything that may be frost tender in the winter if you have a plan to protect them
- Avoid fertilizing late in the fall or in the winter

Protecting

- Always protect plants with cloth, such as a frost blanket, never with plastic. Plants breath and need moisture and air to be able to pass through the barrier
- Create a tent with stakes or poles if the cloth is too heavy on plants and use anchor pins to secure cloth to the ground
- Protect plants and trees such as mangos, avocados, hibiscus, ixora and crotons
- Protect young perennials and flowering plants if planted late in the season