



## Winter Color

The thing furthest from our mind when the temperature is above 115 degrees is winter flowers. Here are three steps to help ensure your flowers are all they can be.

### Planning

Planning was the biggest step that we overlooked for many years, but during the last 4-5 years we have come to rely on this for an exceptional flower experience.

Planning starts in the previous year by taking notes and pictures periodically during the growing season. Questions you want to answer are; 1) what flowers did well and 2)



where were they planted? 3) What colors looked great? 4) How did they hold up during the entire season? 5) What could be done, if anything, next year to make things better? Write these down and during those hot days of summer you will know exactly



which flowers you want from a local grower. By ordering them 3+ months prior to planting you assure yourself that the flowers were grown especially for you and will be delivered on the exact day you want to plant them. By doing this you get the most healthy flowers possible and now you are ready to plant.

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### Coming Events

Safety Luncheon 9-23

A.L.C.A. Training 10-8

## Prepare

Prepare your planting beds either in the summer or before you plant by removing some of the existing soil and adding more nutrient rich soil such as organic compost. This is done to help replace the nutrients that have become depleted by last season's flowers. Also before you plant it is necessary to add some basic fertilizer, we like to add triple phosphate and a little bit of rose food. The phosphate is for blooming and the rose food will help get the flowers going a little faster. The interesting thing about winter flowers is that they can handle freezing temperatures but they cannot tolerate temperature consistently over 95-100 degrees. Generally that gives us a window to start planting from the end of September until the end of October. If you are able to get a head start on the flowers they can get established during the warmer parts of the fall and look better faster because as the temperature dips down the flowers growth slows down.



## Maintain

Maintaining flowers is the single most important thing you can do to have great looking color beds. After you have spent time and money on planning, ordering, preparing the soil, planting the flowers, and watching them bloom if you don't continue to help them along they will fizz out very shortly. We have found that a little bit of regular fertilizer, like rose food, goes a long way to helping the flowers have enough energy to bloom. We also regularly use Super Bloom to aid in getting more color out of our flowers. The next step is "deadheading" which is removing the spent blooms. If this is done the flowers will continue to bloom hard and strong which will make your yard the envy of the neighborhood.



Flowers have a wondrous way of lighting up everything from a corner of your back yard, to the counter in your kitchen, and with a little bit of planning, preparation, and maintenance you too can enjoy the beauty that flowers bring to all of our lives.

## Controlled Substance policy

One of our company's goals is to accomplish our job in as safe a manner as possible. To that end, four years ago we implemented a very strong Controlled Substance policy in our company. From mandatory pre-employment and random testing, we are striving to be a drug free work place. We believe that this not only enhances our employee's ability to perform at a higher level, but also gives us the assurance that each and every employee will return home safe to their families at the end of each and every day. As we strive toward this goal, we know that this policy helps us build on one of our basic foundational principles of trust. At our high level of service if we cannot maintain a level of trust we will lose everything.

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