

## Spring & Summer in Your Garden

- Watch for fungus-related plant stress in spring if we have a warm, wet winter.
- Look for yellowing or mottled leaves as signs of insect stress.
- Aerate beds with a garden fork. Let soils drain and dry. Wait awhile to re-mulch.
- Re-set your irrigation systems to water sparingly after you check your soils and find the shrub beds are only moist, not wet - down to six inches.
- Fertilize and shape azaleas, camellias and gardenias when they finish blooming.
- Plant native shrubs in spring for your fall "bird garden." Add American beautyberry, Arrowwood viburnum, Dwarf Barbados cherry and coralberry.
- Build a "green screen" for privacy with wildlife-sheltering trees and shrubs such as wax myrtle, cherry laurel, Walter's Viburnum and Yaupon.
- Nourish your existing plantings with compost and organic fertilizer before re-mulching
- Reshape flowering shrubs lightly after spring blooms for denser growth with a natural form
- Prune perennials in late February or March for fuller plants in summer
- Prune shrub roses around Valentine's Day.
- Replace poor performers in your landscape with Houston –hardy plantings.
- Remove worn out azaleas and replant native Viburnums and Sweetspire shrubs.
- Plant ornamental trees before Houston's heat and humidity sets in.

### Schedule seasonal plantings around easy-to-remember dates

Easter: Begonias, coleus, lobelia, melampodium, impatiens, and ageratum

Mother's Day: Caladiums, zinnias, bachelor's button, and scented geranium

July 4th: Vinca, portulaca, purslane, sedum