

FOR RELEASE WEEK OF JANUARY 13, 2016

**TITLE: JANUARY MAY APPEAR TO BE A DOWN TIME IN LANDSCAPE,
BUT THIS IS A MYTH. HERE ARE SOME TURF AND ORNAMENTAL TIPS
FOR JANUARY**

BY: RICKY ENSLEY, COUNTY EXTENSION COORDINATOR

POLK COUNTY EXTENSION, 20 N. MAIN STREET, CEDARTOWN

770-749-2142

uge2233@uga.edu

- **Watch for signs of growth in early spring bulbs. When foliage is (1) inch high, gradually start removing mulch. Cloudy days are best for the initial exposure of the leaves to strong sunlight, which can burn tender foliage.**
- **Pinch off early buds from developing pansies to encourage plants to branch and form more buds.**
- **Check stored bulbs, tubers, and corms. Discard any that are soft or diseased.**
- **Proper rose pruning is the key to successful summer blooms. Prune roses back (25%) if you want many, medium sized blooms. Prune back (50%) if you want fewer, larger flowers. Modern roses should be pruned just before the bud breaks dormancy after the last frost.**
- **Late winter is the time to prune many deciduous trees. Look over your plants now and remove dead, unsightly parts of the tree, sprouts growing at or near the base of the tree trunk, crossed branches, and V-shaped crotches.**
- **Consider using ferns in your home landscape. Maidenhair, sensitive, cinnamon, and Christmas ferns are good choices. Ferns like an even supply of water throughout the growing season, so soil with high humus content is ideal because it retains water.**
- **Once a month, water your acid-loving houseplants, such as gardenia and citrus, using a solution of (1) teaspoon of vinegar to (1) quart of water.**

- **Never fertilize a plant in dry soil. The fertilizer could burn roots that need water. It is better to water plants a couple of hours before fertilizing.**

Good gardening in January...