



## Planting Season is Finally Here!

We are so excited that fall is here because that means the start of planting season! Many are not aware that fall and winter are the best times of year to plant. We hope this article inspires y'all to catch "spring fever" this fall because there are many major benefits for establishing the new plants in your landscape this time of year.

When planting in spring, trees and shrubs have far less time to become well established before summer heat and drought sets in. Plants naturally flush out with new top growth in the spring, which competes with the roots for water and nutrients. This can result in the tree or shrub not having the adequate root structure to support its budding growth. When summer sets in, the plant will be more vulnerable to leaf drop, or even branch loss, because the investment in the roots below the soil is not enough to keep up with the demands of the overhead above the soil. On top of those negative outcomes, there is an increase in time spent monitoring the impacts of summer heat on the recently installed plant, as well as greater expense from the high amount of water used.



So what makes fall and winter the best time to plant? There are many reasons why it is such a beneficial season to landscape your yard. When plants are installed during fall or winter, they are able to put all of their energy into root growth because their tops are dormant. During this time the roots never shut down and will slowly grow and become established all winter because the top growth will not be competing for nutrients. By the time spring and summer arrive, the plant will have a larger root mass, making it better equipped to meet the seasonal demands. The results are incredibly beneficial and include a better spring flush that is followed by improved tolerance to summer heat and drought. Plus water demands are little to none!



Also, fall and winter bedding plants should be planted before the ground cools off. Plants like ornamental cabbage, chard, kale, and pansies like the cooler air but greatly benefit if installed while ground temperatures are still warm. The warm ground stimulates their roots which results in developing a larger root structure. This makes them more drought resistant, disease resistant, cold resistant, larger top growth, more blooms, and a more vibrant appearance.

Planting in fall and winter makes the transition so much easier for you and the plants, giving both of you a healthier start. So what will you do in your yard this fall? Take advantage of this weather and don't put off that project any longer. Whether you are looking to install some shade trees, shrubs, fruit trees, or some fall annual color, now is the time to make it happen. Getting a plant off to a great start in your landscape is what we call "an idea that grows." Call or come by so we can help you choose a terrific tree or shrub for your landscape!

We are constantly looking for ways to set you up for success in your yard. Hopefully this article did just that by equipping you with more knowledge to master your southern landscape. Thank you for continually allowing us to provide you with the plants and ideas that make your yard a home.