

Gardening Advice from Mel

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All the plants can be safely pruned back now especially from the freeze damage. A good slow release fertilizer can be applied to the beds with plants. Osmocote or a similar 14-14-14 slow release plants and shrubs fertilizer would do fine. You can use a liquid, Miracle Grow or something similar would work fine too. The fertilizer is a great idea to help stimulate new growth especially from the freeze damaged plants.

It would also be a good time to add mulch or organic compost to the beds. This helps to retain moisture and the compost puts valuable microbes into the soil which helps plant growth.

Around the third to fourth week of March would be a good time to apply Turf fertilizer to help green up and thicken the grass as it comes out of dormancy and starts to grow. Remember the thicker the turf the less weed problems you will have.

Right now is also an excellent time to plant spring flowers. There are many varieties available right now.

Another note to the people that have irrigation systems; it would be a good idea to have the system inspected. Whether they do it themselves or have somebody else do it, it is a good idea to check for any damage or adjustments that need to be made. This helps to keep people from over watering and make sure there system is operating properly.