

THE TAR HEEL GARDNER

By John A. Harris,
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It may sound foolish to you, but I keep a calendar of garden work; things to do each week—where I can see it daily. At times, when I can't get anything done, I'm tempted to throw it away; but it at least helps me to do the more important things and the things that can't wait.

Here are some of the jobs on my list for the next few weeks. Perhaps you too need to do these jobs. As usual, I have procrastinated in doing my fall pruning. This is my next job. On my list to be pruned are the grape vines, apple and peach trees (include other fruit trees if you have them), and those shrubs that bloom in late summer such as Butterfly-Bush, Crapemyrtle, Abelia and others. Some of the evergreens need some pruning, too, but most of this is done as it is needed during the growing season.

As soon as the pruning is finished, the fruit trees must be sprayed before the buds swell with an oil emulsion. This job is now a pleasure since I have a small 15 gallon capacity sprayer. This sprayer is motor-driven and really does a thorough job. It's light enough to pull around with one hand, which makes it easy to handle.

It's plenty early yet, but I'll take the first opportunity to set out cabbage, plant garden peas, spinach, radish and onions. The best garden peas I ever made were planted on January 2. Of course, I should also tell you those years when they were killed when planted in January. You always take a chance with early plantings, but late plantings are just about as risky.

Then, there is that order for roses still on my desk. Also a dozen or so shrubs in my yard waiting to be moved. Last year it was April before I finished my transplanting. All of the plants lived, but I had to keep them watered all summer. It's much better to finish planting trees and shrubs by the end of February.

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