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**“Q&A”**

Q: We have a new home with a lawn in full sun. When can we plant Bermuda grass seed?

A: Bermuda grass needs warm soil and temperatures to germinate. May 1 is the ideal time to plant the seed

Q: What are the recommended tomato varieties for this spring?

A: Celebrity, 444, Tycoon, Tygress. Solar Fire, BHN 968 (cherry), Valley Cat, BHN 602. If none of these varieties are available, look for a variety that is determinate or semi-determinate, so it will quickly grow to its full size to set fruit before the summer gets too hot.

Q: Our cyclamen were damaged in the freeze. Will they bloom again before the summer?

A: Check to see if the new buds were damaged. In my garden, the existing blooms were frozen, but the flower buds under the leaves escaped and are already in bloom. If both the flowers and buds were frozen, the cyclamen may not bloom again before the summer heat ends their bloom period.

Q: What herbicide should we apply to eliminate sand burs this next summer?

A: Apply Amaze or XL right now and then again in late May to prevent sand burs. Follow the label instructions.

Q: What is the purpose of dormant oil? Is it essential that we spray our peach trees with it?

A: Dormant oil is considered an organic pesticide that will suffocate scale insects and other insect eggs. Include some copper hydroxide (Kocide) with it in the spray and the application will also help reduce bacterial diseases. Dormant oil can only be applied when two days (48 hours) of temperatures of 45 degrees are scheduled. Dormant oil will kill foliage, so apply it before the tree leafs out. Do not accidentally spray it on flowers or vegetables.

Q: Which birds in our area will nest in birdhouses?

A: Wrens, chickadees, titmice, woodpeckers, purple martins, starlings and English sparrows.

Q: Can I transplant larkspur? They are taking over my flower beds.

A: Yes, they transplant easily.

For questions about horticulture, water conservation and the environment, email Calvin Finch at Calvin.finch@tamu.edu