**WEB**

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**“Snapdragon Q&A”**

Q. When should we plant snapdragons and stock?

A. The hot weather annuals may perform well through Thanksgiving, but you can begin planting the cool weather annuals, such as snapdragons, dianthus, stocks and calendula, in late September and October. Wait to plant pansies and cyclamen until November. They don’t fare well in the hot spells that we sometimes have in October.

Q. What is the most drought-tolerant lawn grass?

A. Buffalo grass is very drought tolerant, but it is hard to manage as a lawn. If you mow it low, it becomes overrun with weeds when it rains. Bermuda grass and Zoysia grass make attractive lawns and can go dormant if they aren’t irrigated. They will perk up as soon as the rains begin again. Bermuda grass is more drought-tolerant than Zoysia grass.

Q. Is there any insecticide that kills stink bugs? They devastated my tomatoes this spring.

A. Carbaryl (Sevin) is an effective control. Check the label for how much time must be allowed between the spraying and harvest. It is usually 48 hours.

Q. When should we dig up and re-space our iris? They are getting very thick.

A. Now is okay. October and November are also a good time.

Q. We just moved into a new house that is blessed with deer. They ate all our first planting of flowers and shrubs. Are there some deer proof plants?

A. Visit [plantanswers.com](http://www.plantanswers.com) for a list. Among the plants on the list are Texas mountain laurel, esperanza, thyrallis, pittosporum, viburnum, iris, paperwhites, daffodils, lantana, salvia, Mexican plum and Mexican oregano.

It is a good idea to spray new plantings with Liquid Fence once per week for three weeks to discourage deer from tasting the newly placed plants. They often are curious—and ornery—enough to pull up even deer-resistant plants that are newly planted.

Q. Is there a resource that I can use to do my own drip system? It would be great if I could afford to have an irrigation contractor do it, but I can’t.

A. Tom Harris and Ron Csehil produced a handbook called *Drip Line Gardening* that is available at a reasonable cost on the [website](http://www.hillcountrygardens.com/). I think it will meet your needs.

Q. When should we plant our wildflower seed?

A. Now is a good time. Apply it to an area in full sun where the seed can make contact with the soil.