Question and Answer

Distribute 11- 23-15

Q. We have applied Round-up to a portion of our lawn. We are going to replace the grass with Asiatic jasmine groundcover. What is the best way to proceed? Remove the dead grass before planting; till the grass into the soil; or plant into the killed grass?

A. For me the most effective way has always been to plant the groundcover, perennial or shrub right into the killed grass. The grass serves as an effective mulch to reduce weed competition while the new plants become established.

Q. Our spinach seeding has not been very successful. In two 8 ft. rows we only had 3 plants germinate. After 3 weeks. Should we wait longer or reseed? What do you think is the problem?

A. Seeding spinach is always unpredictable. You can reseed now that the soil is cooler or you can rely on transplants. Ashley is on the market now and some nurseries will have a limited supply of Coho in a few weeks. If you reseed do not plant the seed too deep, try a half inch deep at the most.

Q. We replaced zinnias with snapdragons and stock for the winter but now the zinnia have reseeded themselves. They look great and are close to blooming. Is it best to treat them like weeds and remove them?

A. That would be the recommended action. They will interfere with the growth of the snaps and stock. It sounds like you don’t want to pull them? Leave a few of the reseeded zinnias around the edges of the garden and remove those in direct competition with the winter annuals. The weather will soon destroy the cold sensitive zinnias.

Q. When is the recommended time to move our bougainvillea, hibiscus, and mandevilla into shelter from the cold. They look great but the temps have dropped pretty close to freezing.

A. The cold-sensitive plants you mention should be placed in freeze proof shelter right now. Once the temperatures reach the low forties the tropical plants begin to be affected by the cold. It is easier to move them into shelter when it is convenient than to try and do it the evening that a freeze is predicted.

Q. This has been a record crop of acorns and pecans in our neighborhood. The squirrels are burying them everywhere, including in all my flowerpots. Will the nut burying mean that we will be overrun by oak and pecan seedlings next spring?

A. A small portion of the acorns and pecans will germinate but most will be eaten by squirrels, birds, deer, weevils, and other insects. The difference in number of seedlings will be noticeable but not overwhelming.