

## December To-Do-List for Cameron County Yards and Gardens

### Time to plant:

**Flowers:** alyssum, anemone bulbs, calendula, begonias, dianthus, geranium, gerbera daisy, impatiens, kalanchos, larkspur, marigolds, pansy, petunias, snapdragons, stocks.

**Trees:** mesquite, anaqua, wild olive, Texas ebony, granjeno, retama, montezuma bald Cyprus, black willow, coyote willow, sugar hackberry.

**Shrubs:** Native: Cenizo or purple sage, Trecul's yucca, Mexican trixis, skeleton bush, yellow sophora, lantana, desert lantana, hachinal, manzanita or barbados cherry, blackbrush, chilipiquin, white brush.

Non-native cold tolerant: Japanese boxwood, viburnum, waxleaf ligustrum, Japanese yew, dwarf yaupon holly, dwarf and regular pittisporum.

**Vegetables:** collards, mustard, spinach, turnips.

**Herbs:** basil, dill, mint, oregano, rue, thyme.

### Remember:

-Start to harvest your vegetables and fruits especially freeze tender ones like avocados, citrus, tomatoes, peppers, and any cucumbers or melons.

-Poinsettias will continue to grow after Christmas.

Shop for your Christmas tree at your local nursery

-Time to plant fruit trees: peaches, plums, pecans and grapes.

-Gather any fallen leaves and compost them.

-Protect your frost and freeze tender plants. **Do not** use plastic as it has no insulation effect, **use** cotton sheets, lightweight blankets or cardboard boxes.

(Information source: *Successful Gardening in the Magic Valley of Texas*, Dist. VI, Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. and *Native Trees- and Native Shrubs-of the lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas Landscape Uses and Identification*, Native Plant Project, POB 1433, Edinburg, TX)