



## *Gardener's Resolutions for 2018*

- **Get inspired!** Google lovely Garden images, Wow! Now plan on creating a lovely garden spot at your home or recreate the whole landscape into a lovely garden. Bring in pictures of you dream garden along with pictures of your current garden with dimensions. Let the Holcomb experts guide you to your lovely garden.
- **Do not let weeds get out of hand before taking efforts to control them!** The old saying, “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” is very true for weed control. Most weeds can be easily prevented much easier than trying to control them at maturity. Holcomb Garden centers has weed and grass preventers for gardens, landscapes and lawns.
- **Use mulches in flowerbeds, vegetable gardens, and in the landscape.** In the landscape, mulch is the icing on the cake as far as completing a wonderful look. Beyond just looks mulching helps control weeds, conserves moisture during dry times, and adds organic matter back to the soil. Choose natural mulches that compliment your landscape or garden.
- **Get your soil tested.** Having the proper pH level in your soil will help plant flourish. Not having the proper pH level means your plant can not benefit from the food you give them as is becomes chemically tied up in the soil and not available to the plants.
- **Plant a Pollinator Garden!** We are at a time in history that honey bees and butterflies have less food options than ever before. Make it a point to plant flowers, trees, and shrubs that benefit bees and butterflies. They will have food and we can enjoy the benefits of honey, pollination and watching the butterfly show.
- **Visit at least one of the wonderful Public Gardens in the Tri-State area.** A few of my favorites are; Birmingham Botanical Gardens in Birmingham Alabama, Atlanta Botanical Gardens in Atlanta Georgia, Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain Georgia, and UT Trial Gardens in Knoxville Tennessee. I know there are many more and all are worth visiting.
- **Grow something you can eat this year!** This can be as simple as fresh herbs and vegetables to blueberries and fruit trees. Grapes, berries and fruit planted this year will provide years of wonderful, home grown flavor for years to come.
- **Show a child the wonders of gardening!** The excitement of a fairy garden, growing and eating a cherry tomato, or planting a fruit tree to grow up with. Plant the seed of horticulture and unleash a life time gardening joys!
- **Lastly, take time to smell the roses!** Yes the word gardening is a verb meaning work, but it provides a sense of oneness with the earth, it provides exercise, it benefits birds, bees and butterflies. Landscaping increases home values and shade trees help cool our homes in the summer. Most of all, breathe in the fragrance of a fresh mowed lawn, taste the fruit of your labor, and relax in the shade of a tree. Life is good, enjoy it!