

JOBS FOR JANUARY

Watering continues to be our main job till the end of summer and last month's notes are relevant for January as well.

During dry weather, wet the foliage of trees that are prone to 'Red Spider Mite', whilst you are watering, as this is a very effective deterrent for these little nasties, and keep an eye out for any other pest infestation while you're at it.

Aphids and Caterpillars are rife at this time of year, with aphids particularly fond of Junipers and the new growing tips of broadleaf plants especially Figs.

Don't forget to protect some of your 'softer' trees from extreme summer sun and hot winds, especially deciduous trees which will suffer leaf burn and not exhibit great colour in autumn.

Continue to prune long shoots with scissors with the exception of your conifers which should be finger tip pruned. Weeds in your pots are a lot easier to eradicate if you remove them when they first appear.

If wiring at this time of year extreme care should be taken not to damage unhardened wood as it is very easy to scrape off the bark and cambium. Wire also cuts in very quickly as the tree thickens substantially from now until dormancy.

Some people cease fertilizing during this hot period, however with constant watering, nutrients are certainly leached out of the potting mix. Deciduous trees are said to show better Autumn Colour if fertilizing ceases prior to the heat of summer, but I find this debatable.

Now is your last chance to prune Wisteria, Crab apple, Prunus etc. ensuring to leave at least a couple of internodes to allow Spring flowering.

Azaleas and Gardenias can be pruned now also but NOT Camellias as they would have already started to form flower buds for autumn flowering.

Keep your Natives tip pruned to maintain a compact shape otherwise they tend to go 'leggy'.