

## Here Are Some Fun Facts About Living and Gardening In Our Area...

- ♦ Why do they call this area the Treasure Valley?
  - ◇ Historically, the valley had been known as the Lower Snake River Valley or the Boise River Valley. In 1959, Pete Olesen of Caldwell, who owned a seed company and served as president of the board of a coalition of chambers of commerce, coined the name "Treasure Valley." He chose this name to reflect the treasure chest of resources and opportunities that the region offered.
- ♦ The Treasure Valley stretches from Mountain Home through Ontario, Oregon with altitude ranging from 2800' in the Upper valley to 2300' in the Lower valley.
- ♦ Our average rainfall is approximately 11 inches per season from October through May.
- ♦ June - September are normally hot and dry months with temperatures ranging from the high 80's to well above 100.
- ♦ We are located in a high-arid, desert region.
- ♦ We have a very low humidity level in summer. Near single digits.
- ♦ The Treasure Valley has over 500 miles of irrigation canals.
- ♦ Pressurized irrigation is common throughout the area, which normally runs from mid-April through early-October.
- ♦ Local irrigation districts normally have the irrigation water turned on around April 15th.
- ♦ Lawns usually need about 1" of water per week during the spring and fall, and up to 2" during the hot summer months.
- ♦ The soil in our region has a high PH level, normally running in the range of 8-12. This is due to Alkaline that is found in the soil around our valley.
  - ◇ Avoid planting low-level PH (acid loving) blueberries and rhododendron, unless you're planning to heavily amend your soil, or use containers.
  - ◇ Some soil requires mineral amendments like manganese and sulfur to avoid Chlorosis, or yellowing leaves on shrubs and trees.

## Quick Reference Guides:

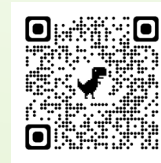
### Idaho Preferred Farmers Markets



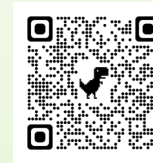
### Basic Lawncare



### Idaho Landscapes and Gardens



### Soil Testing



Open the camera app on your phone and hover over the QR code until a link appears for the webpage.



## Welcome to What Locals Call

## The Treasure Valley "Southwest Idaho"

Brought to you by the  
University of Idaho Extension,  
Canyon County Master Gardeners

**2C Idaho Master Gardeners**

FREE Plant Clinics  
May - September

Monday: 1pm - 4pm  
Wednesday: 1pm - 4pm  
Friday: 9am - 12pm

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## [Helpful Hints For a Wonderful Lawn and Garden](#)

### ***Items to get started in the winter.***

Mid-December through Mid-January:

- ◆ Gather ideas from seed catalogs.
- ◆ Start planning your spring and summer garden.

Late January through Mid-February

- ◆ Start your cool season seedlings inside your home or a greenhouse.

Mid-February through Mid-March

- ◆ Prepare your garden beds with mature compost.
- ◆ Get ready to plant your cool season veggies around St. Patrick's Day.

### ***Items to get started in the spring.***

Mid-March through Mid-April:

- ◆ Local Farmers Markets will be starting in early April.
- ◆ Start seedlings for flowers and summer veggies.
- ◆ Aerate your lawn and spread new grass seed in problem areas.
- ◆ Check your lawnmower. Have it tuned-up and the blades sharpened.
- ◆ Check your gardening hand tools for cleanliness and sharpness.

Mid-April through Mid-May:

- ◆ Apply the first fertilizer application to your lawn.
- ◆ Make sure your irrigation system pressure is running well.
- ◆ Check your sprinkler system to make sure that all of the stations are working properly. Change any damaged sprinkler heads.
- ◆ Now is a good time to pick up some locally grown plants from gardening experts.

Here are some options...

- ◇ The University of Idaho Extension Canyon County in Caldwell has a plant sale the last Saturday in April.
- ◇ Canyon Springs Church in Middleton has a plant sale the Saturday before Mother's Day.
- ◇ St. Paul's Church in Nampa has a community plant sale the first Saturday in May.
- ◇ The Idaho Botanical Garden in Boise has a native plant sale the first Saturday in May.
- ◇ The University of Idaho Extension Ada County in Garden City has a plant sale the first Saturday in May.

### ***Items to get started in summer.***

Late June through Mid-July:

- ◆ Apply the second fertilizer application to your lawn.
- ◆ Check your lawnmower oil. Replace if necessary.
- ◆ Prepare your fall garden beds for planting. Add more compost.

### ***Items to get started in fall.***

Early September through Early October:

- ◆ Apply the third fertilizer application to your lawn.

Mid-October through Mid-November:

- ◆ Mow over the dead leaves in your yard and add to your compost.
- ◆ Winterize your lawn mower by cleaning it and draining fluids.
- ◆ Clean your gardening hand tools and sharpen if necessary.
- ◆ Consider adding a fall/winter fertilizer application to your lawn.