

January Gardening Chores



“Every gardener knows under the cloak of winter lies a miracle... a seed waiting to sprout, a bulb opening to light, a bud straining to unfurl. And the anticipation nurtures our dreams.” Barbara Winkler

- **Winter is the best time to examine the bones of your garden.**
- Get a [soil test kit](#) or take a soil sample to your County Extension office
- [Start seeds](#) for lettuce, snap peas and other early crops you'll be setting out in March.
- Order seed potatoes to plant at least two weeks before the last frost. Yukon Gold and Norland Reds grow well in Zones 7 and 8
- [Plant container grown or bare root roses](#) this month. Keep mulched and watered
- Start seeds of summer-blooming annuals indoors for planting out in March and April.
- Plant summer and fall Flowering perennial bulbs
- Now is the time to prune fruit trees
- If you want to prune evergreens (most don't need it), do it now when the pine bark beetles are dormant.

February Gardening Chores



February may well be the toughest gardening month. Thank goodness, it's short.

- February is for planning
- Prune trees and shrubs, both ornamentals and fruit
- Finish your seed and plant catalog shopping and get your orders in
- What your houseplants for pests
- Replace mulch as needed
- Rejuvenate holly bushes with a hard pruning
- Start seeds of cool season vegetables and flowers
- Check flower beds for plants that may have heaved

March Gardening Chores



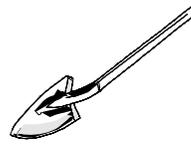
“Only with winter patience can we bring the deep-desired, long-awaited spring.” Anne Morrow Lindbergh

- When the forsythias start to bloom, remove the winter mulch from roses – but don't get ahead of the weather
- Deadhead and prune back flowering shrubs that bloom on current season's wood before the buds break
- Plant pansies and repot geraniums, lantana, Mandeville saved from last year
- Apply dormant spray to fruit trees
- Plant seedlings of cool weather vegetables
- Prune your apple, plum, peach and cherry trees now
- Plant summer-blooming shrubs and vines
- Deadhead early daffodils, tulips and other large bulb flowers that have finished blooming. Allow the foliage to remain and save the spent blooms for potpourri
- Cut back thyme, chives, sage, tarragon, oregano and other perennial herbs.
- As new growth appears in your perennial beds, it is time to finish clearing away the weeds, dead plant material/leaves and fertilize
- Start dahlias indoors
- Weed now before they have a chance to flower or go to seed
- Make garden to do lists
- Test soil for type and PH levels before planting
- Plant hardy annuals
- Plant bare-root trees & shrubs
- Sow seeds of hardy annuals, such as; flax, cornflowers, annual poppies, sunflowers, larkspur
- Complete summer flowering bulb ordering
- Apply mulch around trees, shrubs, climbers...
- Get flower beds ready for the year ahead: apply fertilizer to the soil between plants, mulch with garden compost and remove weeds from around existing plants
- Plant perennial herb plants
- Deadhead early daffodils, tulips and other flowering bulbs
- Cut grasses back to a few inches above the crown
- Protect delicate plants from slugs and snails
- Start tomato plant seeds indoors
- Start Dahlias indoors
- Begin to transplant pot-bound houseplants
- Keep on top of weeds
- Apply moss killer to lawn if required
- Create new lawn from seed or repair existing
- Get containers and window baskets ready for planting
- Get flower beds and borders ready for the year ahead.
- Apply a general fertilizer to the soil between plants.
- Mulch with a garden compost.
- Remove any weeds from around existing plants.
- Feed shrubs, trees, climbers and roses; Plant early peas, beets, potatoes, lettuce and chives.



Spring Clean-Up Free Health Clinic

April Gardening Chores



“All through the long winter, I dream of my garden. On the first day of spring, I dig my fingers deep into the soft earth. I can feel its energy, and my spirits soar.” – Helen Hayes

- Prune evergreens
- Plant summer bulb (Dahlias, Gladiolas, Lilies)
- Plant annual seeds Asters, Cosmos, Marigolds & Zinna
- Divide Perennials like Daylilies, Iris, Hostas
- An application of spring fertilizer should pick up the lawn
- Plant a tree for Arbor Day
- Plant summer flowering bulbs such as Lilies, Alliums, Gladioli....
- Prune forsythia
- Feed spring flowering bulbs
- Sow seeds for herbs, tomatoes and peppers
- Divide fall blooming perennials
- Keep a garden journal
- Weed beds
- Apply spring fertilizer to your lawn
- Stop weeds from getting started, “One year’s weed – seven years seed”
- Green fly, black fly and aphids are all active - A plant spray is available from the garden center
- Deadhead spring-flowering bulbs - allow foliage to ripen before removing (about 6 -7 wks)
- Empty containers used for winter bedding displays
- Keep a garden journal
- Wood ashes saved over the winter can be spread in the gardens- pay attention to the plants requirements
- Plant pansies, daises and shrubs
- Spring is the season to move magnolia and tulip trees
- Time to start early vegetables, beets, lettuce, peas, bush beans, carrots, radishes, kohlrabi, celery....
- Plant perennial herbs such as thyme, oregano, chives, parsley...
- Check the PH of your soil, get your soil tested
- The Cooperative Extension Service is a valuable source for local gardening information
- April is prime “Thyme” for perennial herbs. Plant hardy potted perennial herbs now
- Prune deciduous trees when dormant, remove branches growing into the center or crossing over other branches
- Transplant container-grown trees or shrubs while they are still dormant.
- Before growth begins broadcast organic fertilizer based on the specific plants requirements
- Set out perennial container plants or root divisions any time after the ground can be worked.

- Container grown roses should be planted now, roses need at least 6 hours of sun for the best blooms. David Austin's, "Bow Bells" and Floribunda "Gruss an Aachen" often bloom in part shade
- Feed spring flowering bulbs
- Check all climbing plants and re-tie-in if necessary.
- Plant summer flowering bulbs Start here again
- Keep a garden journal
- Weed beds



May Gardening Chores



"What is a weed? A weed is a plant whose virtues have not yet been discovered."...Ralph Waldo Emerson

- May is named for the Roman goddess Maia, who oversaw the growth of plants.
- Prepare and prime irrigation system for summer
- When pansies and primroses fade, replace them with other dwarfs such as lobelia, wax begonias, alyssum
- Pinch out the growing tips of snapdragons, basil, cosmos, and other plants with central stalks, to keep them bushing out
- Plant tomatoes by Memorial Day
- Plant container roses
- Plant up containers with summer bedding flowers
- Divide and replant clumps of perennials that have finished blooming
- Plant salvia, cosmos and a succession of zinnias
- Plant dahlias started indoors
- Aerate and dethatch lawn
- Water as needed, especially potted plants
- Monitor and pinch the tips of branching annuals that develop one or more central stems.
- In May, attract hummingbirds to your garden, by planting perennials such as bee balms, columbines, daylilies, and lupines; biennials such as foxgloves and hollyhocks; and many annuals, including cleomes, impatiens, and petunias.
- Plant ornamental grasses
- Plant heat-loving perennials
- Feed houseplants that are growing or blooming
- Prune spring-flowering or tender shrubs and vines during or just after bloom
- Plant or transplant warm-season vegetable seedlings
- Watch for Japanese Beetles, pinch off by hand
- Plant tomatoes: Determinate: produce all at once, grow about 3' and don't require staking. Indeterminate: need staking or caging and will continue to produce until stopped by cold
- Plan ahead to fill your garden
- Don't pull large weeds from bone-dry soil
- Look for and destroy nests of bagworms
- Check Hostas for signs of slugs and snails
- Mow lawn often so you only cut 1/3 off to maintain height
- Include a half of a dose of fertilizer every second watering of houseplants
- Start watching for Japanese Beetles and pick off early in the morning (drop in a bucket of soapy water)
- There is still time to plant squash, pumpkins, beans, cucumbers, eggplant...
- If the garden needs watering, apply water last thing in afternoon or first thing in morning
- Move dahlias and other bulbs started indoors to a sheltered spot to harden off for planting

- Time to plant lobelia, wax begonias, snapdragons, marigolds and zinnias
- When night temperature remains above 55degrees, pepper and tomato seedlings can be moved to garden
- Plant summer flowering bulbs
- Remove any sucker growths from fruit trees as soon as they appear
- Work lime in the soil around your Hydrangeas for pink flowers or Aluminum Sulphate for blue blooms



June Gardening Chores



I appreciate the misunderstanding I have had with Nature over my perennial border. I think it is a flower garden; she thinks it is a meadow lacking grass, and tries to correct the error. ~Sara Stein, My Weeds, 1988

- Replace mulch and aerate soil in permanent potted plants
- Remove the last of the spring flowers and replace them with seeds or seedlings that will bloom until frost, such as Salvia, China Asters, Cosmos, sow final succession planting of zinnias
- Prune once-blooming roses
- Hand pick Japanese Beetles – they're sluggish in the cool of early morning. Traps are effective, only if they are placed far away from roses, when all else fails apply an insecticide containing neem, Sevin or rotenone
- As seasonal growth comes to an end, you can prune trees whose growth you want to slow or dwarf
- Give early flowering herbaceous perennials a 'hair cut' – it will encourage a second blooming by summer's end
- Tomatoes and peppers need regular feeding
- Feed summer flowering container plants
- Weed all areas of the gardens
- Check for powdery mildew, prune out affected areas. Keep soil watered and mulched, improve air circulation around stems and foliage
- Sit back and enjoy the gardens
- House plants can be moved outside to a shady, protected spot
- Tap your tomato plants to encourage good pollination; water every day and start feeding them weekly once fruits set
- Dead head the developing seed pods from your Rhododendrons and Azaleas
- Remove dead foliage from your spring flowering bulbs, but only after it has died back
- Continue to watch for insect or disease damage throughout the garden, take corrective measures
- Once the wisteria finishes blooming, you can do maintenance pruning to keep it in check
- "Pinch back" mums for a fuller bush and more blossoms come fall.
- Watering is essential once the weather is drier and warmer - water thoroughly once or twice a week rather than little and often (containers and hanging baskets need watering every day and sometimes twice if it is hot and windy)
- Keep up on deadheading, for long season bloom
- Pinch back tall growing fall bloomers like asters, monarda and helianthus
- Get any remaining warm season vegetables in the ground
- Keep **tomato plants** staked as they grow. Pinch out **suckers**.

- Prune your evergreens, as soon as the new growth starts to turn a darker green.
- Once the wisteria finishes blooming, do a maintenance pruning to keep it in check
- Protect ripening berries with nets or row covers
- Keep new plants well watered
- Make sure the birds have fresh water
- Replace spent annuals with heat-tolerant lantana, pentas, verbena and hibiscus
- Fall bloomers that get too tall, such as chrysanthemum, can be cut back by about one half now to reduce their fall height
- Spring-flowering shrubs, such as deutzia, weigela, viburnum and forsythia, should be pruned as soon as they complete bloom
- Leftover vegetable and flower seeds may be stored in a cool, dry location for planting next year.
- Identify garden pests before you attempt to control them. Read labels carefully to be sure the treatment is compatible with the plant. Apply the proper amount at the proper time.
- Raise the cutting height of your lawnmower to 1 to 1 1/2 inches in mid-summer to help your lawn survive the heat and dry periods.



July Gardening Chores



“However small your garden, you must provide for two of the serious gardener’s necessities, a tool shed and a compost heap.” Anne Scott-James

- Fertilize warm-season grasses
- Remove faded flowers from perennials, deadheading redirects energy towards healthy roots
- Start sowing seeds for fall flowering annuals – pansies, sweet alyssum, calendula
- Water your compost pile when you water your garden, and turn it weekly
- Check the moisture in plant containers, hanging baskets and window boxes daily. On hot days, even large containers need more frequent watering.
- Plant late season vegetables seeds, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, kale, chard, cauliflower and left over cool-weather lettuce and arugula
- Move potted plants to areas that get some shade
- Water and turn compost piles
- Plant fall vegetables (beets, carrots, parsnips, brussel sprouts, cabbage...)
- Take cuttings of Azaleas, Camellias ... for rooting
- Continue deadheading perennials, annuals and climbing vines
- Remove side shoots on tomatoes
- Water deeply
- Replace spent annuals with heat tolerant lantana, verbena, pentas and hibiscus
- Make sure that the garden is well mulched to conserve moisture.
- Water early in the morning and deeply to avoid drought stress and save water loss due to evaporation
- Continue to deadhead, snip leggy petunias stems with only a few buds
- Shear small flowering plants such as annual coreopsis and dwarf cosmos to promote growth
- Continue to control infestations of Japanese beetles, aphids, mites, whiteflies and bagworms
- Take advantage of the mail-order bulb suppliers’ discounts for early orders
- Tie tall Dahlias and Lilies to the upper third of their stakes
- Water potted plants carefully on very hot days.
- Maturing vegetables must be kept picked to maintain productivity
- Water from a hose in July sun is very hot, run water until it is tepid before watering the garden
- Make sowings of your favorite salad crop
- Don’t panic if grass turns brown during dry weather
- Check hedges for nesting birds prior to trimming
- Bearded Iris can be divided and replanted. Discard all shriveled and diseased parts
- Trim herbs to prevent them from becoming straggly
- Harvest Garlic and Onions as foliage turns yellow

- If you see powdery mildew, remove the infected plants and thin beds to provide more air circulation.
- Plants that are blooming may benefit from a side dressing of compost
- The primary rule of summer watering is to water thoroughly and deeply each time and to allow the soil dry out between watering
- Try to do your watering during the morning hours so that the leaves can dry off a bit before the hot sun hits them
- Wet foliage makes plants more susceptible to fungus and disease
- Change the water in your bird bath regularly, and keep it filled. Standing water may become a breeding ground for mosquito larvae



August Gardening Chores



“Gardening is the art that uses flowers and plants as paint, and the soil and sky as the canvas.” - Elizabeth Murray

- As the weather freshens at summer’s end, harvest all the herbs you wish to freeze or dry for winter use
- During droughts, dahlias, lilies, and other summer flowering bulbs need water every week, as do annuals and perennials
- Add a final round of petunia seedlings to hanging baskets and window boxes
- Continue to deadhead phlox, purple coneflower, salvia and other summer-flowering perennials.
- Clear
- Mowing the lawn high is essential during hot dry months
- Clear beds of weeds, don’t let them go to seed
- Prune summer-blooming shrubs after flowers finish
- Start planting your fall bulbs.
- Prune summer-blooming shrubs after flowers finish (hydrangea...)
- Plant seeds of cool weather herbs (chives, parsley, dill...)
- Pick vegetables early in the day while they are crisp
- Start seeds for fall harvest (cabbage, brussel sprouts, lettuce, kale, radishes...)
- Cut older petunia stems back by two-thirds, Dahlias need deadheading
- Water the soil of potted plants slowly and frequently as the roots will have filled the containers.
- Mildew can be a problem, pick off and destroy infected foliage- spray with a fungicide if required
- Harvest herbs you want to freeze/dry for winter use early in the morning when the oils are the strongest
- Remove and destroy bagworms and tent caterpillars
- During droughts, dahlias, lilies, and other flowering bulbs need watering every week to 10 days.
- Keep beans and summer squashes picked to keep the plants producing.
- Order spring flowering bulbs for winter forcing
- Divide Phlox and Daylilies
- Mow the lawn high during hot weather
- Clean beds of weeds; don’t let them go to seed
- Begin to prepare indoor plants/trees summering outdoors for wintering indoors.
- Stop fertilizing established outdoor trees growing in containers
- Sow another crop of peas for a fall harvest
- Remove spent blooms on crepe myrtle to encourage more blooms
- Cut back hosta flower stems
- Water and turn compost pile, do not let it dry out
- Harvest and preserve fruit and vegetables
- Tear out old, bolting lettuces and spinach; it will make room for new plantings.

- Collect and compost any annuals that are passed their prime
- When the flowers on lavender fade give the entire plant a trim, removing the faded blooms and a little of the stem beneath.



September Gardening Chores



“The garden is my grocery, my market and my source of art and joy – all that I need but a friend is there.” John Barton

- Plant seedlings of hardy annuals, such as, pansies, violas, flowering cabbage and kale
- When nighttime temperature plunge to 55 degrees, move tropical's and tender perennials indoors – Mandevilla, bougainvillea, coleus, pentas, geraniums and your indoor fruit trees vacationing outdoors
- Cut down Lily stalks that are fully yellow; move or divide four year old lilies
- Spread Bulb-tone or ashes over beds of spring flowering bulbs
- Keep maturing vegetables picked to keep producing
- Divide and transplant perennials until mid-month
- Now is the best time for planting, dividing and transplanting 4 year lilies, perennials & shrubs
- Start planting fall bulbs
- Give hedges their final trimming of the season
- When temperatures drop below 60 move tender and tropical plants indoors
- Begin to clean garden beds of spent annuals
- Cut down Lily stalks that are fully yellowed
- Cut off dying foliage from Irises and other winter hardy bulbs
- Excellent time to plan & start a new flower bed
- Keep bulbs that are waiting to be planted in a refrigerator crisper, away from fruits and vegetables, or in a cool cellar or garage.
- Cut down lily stalks that are fully yellowed, cut the dying foliage on Irises
- Spread Bulb-Tone over established beds of spring/summer flowering bulbs
- When night temperatures begin to drop to 60 degrees, begin to bring in all but your hardiest houseplants
- Labor Day is the beginning of the best season for repairing and starting a new lawn
- September is an excellent month to plan and start new perennial beds
- Set out transplants of cool weather vegetables
- Plant winter pansies and fall annuals (calendula, ornamental cabbage, kale...)
- Divide peonies, bearded iris and other spring/summer blooming perennials
- Scatter dill seeds in the garden, if conditions are right, they will sprout in spring
- Early this month you should pot up your tender plants to allow them time to adjust before bringing them inside in October – take cuttings of coleus, begonias, geraniums, rosemary, mint, marjoram, bay...
- Repot Poinsettias you want to re-bloom and bring indoors to a sunny window in a cool room

- Cut off dying foliage from Irises and other winter hardy bulbs
- Spread milky spore where Japanese Beetles were present
- Clear out vegetable crops that have peaked
- Turn compost pile weekly
- Provide protection for late crops
- As temperatures drop, bring in houseplants
- Watch for late plant sales, now is a perfect time for planting shrubs and trees
- Stop hose-end feeding your perennials that promotes new growth, plants need to slow down and prepare for dormancy, instead spread organic slow-release granules (5-10-5) to encourage healthy roots.
- Refresh tired plantings with cool-weather annuals, such as violas, pansies and ornamental kale.
- Watch for insect, **slug and snail**, or disease damage throughout the garden
- Poinsettias should be given an application of a **0-10-10 fertilizer** this month and again next month to help encourage the development of flower buds.
- Christmas cactus needs the same general care.
- September is one of the best months for **seeding or sodding new lawns**.
If the lawn needs thatching, it can be done during the early fall.
Over-seed old lawns with fresh seed to help fill in the bare spots and crowd out weeds and mosses.



October Gardening Chores



“A garden is a place to feel the beauty of solitude” Bob Barnes

- Plant hardy spring-flowering bulbs
- Dig up and store spent dahlias, gladioli, and other tender plants
- Plant container roses
- Pre-chill tulips and hyacinths for indoor forcing
- Continue to deadhead the pansies and calendula
- Pull up and compost frost-blackened annuals
- Turn compost pile and refurbish with debris from yard and garden
- Flowering cabbages and kales thrive in deeply-dug, well drained, fertile soil that holds moisture
- Root vegetables and winter squash are should be ready to harvest
- Check trees for signs of scale, aphids, mealybugs...etc. and treat
- Early fall is a time to divide and move perennials
- Keep watch for whiteflies and spider mites on houseplants brought back indoors for the winter – spray with insecticidal soap as required
- Deadhead marigolds, impatiens, pansies, calendula and other flowers still blooming in the garden
- As temperatures drop start planting spring flowering bulbs according to requirements
- To deter moles, voles, squirrels, etc. plant bulbs (except Daffodils) with Vole Bloc or PermaTill
- Now is the time to clear, weed, turn the soil to prepare vegetable beds for winter
- Compost all healthy vegetative material (discard disease or insect infested garden debris)
- Early fall is a good time to dig and transplant shrubs – the most important preparation for the winter is a deep watering of all shrubs before the soil freezes
- You can prune dead or diseased tree limbs but delay major pruning until spring
- Rake lawn to remove debris for planting and repairing
- Plant ornamental grasses, fall and winter blooming perennials
- Sow seeds for cool-season or winter vegetables
- Before the first frost, pull up any annual herbs to dry the whole plant by hanging in a dark, airy place
- Take nature walks to soak in autumn’s glory
- Young trees should be staked to prevent the roots from being pulled by fall and winter winds.
- It is prime time for planting and dividing Iris
- Replace faded annuals with Chrysanthemums, celosia, asters and ornamental peppers
- Pick bagworms from evergreen shrubs, to eliminate the spring hatch from over-wintered eggs
- Christmas cactus need care now to get flowers in December. Buds will form at 50-60 degrees Fahrenheit or if the plant is exposed to at least 13 hours of complete darkness each night.

- Fall is an excellent time for taking soil samples in your lawn and garden. Soil tests will measure the pH of the soil, organic matter content and the levels of some of the major elements required for plant growth, such as phosphorus and potassium.
- Plant spring flowering bulbs
- Plant pansies in your beds to help roots become established before colder weather sets in
- Remove green tomatoes from the plants. Either ripen in a brown paper bag or lift the entire plant and hang upside down in a warm spot
- House plants start to slow down as the days get shorter. Cut back on watering and feeding until next spring. Winter feeding will result in weak growth.
- Make sure plants receive enough water, especially transplants and winter and spring bloomers.
- Keep mowing, as long as the grass is growing. But set your mower to its highest level and let the grass go into winter with at least 3" of growth.
- Harvest sunflower heads; use seed for birdseed or roast for personal use.
- Plant garlic for harvesting next summer.
- Dig and store geraniums, tuberous begonias, dahlias, and gladiolas



November Gardening Chores



“November comes, and November goes, with the last red berries, and the first white snows. With night coming early and dawn coming late. And ice on the bucket and frost on the gate.” Clyde Watson

- Cover perennial, vegetable, and bulb beds for the winter
- Protect Roses for winter
- Prune fall and winter flowering shrubs after last bloom
- Empty, clean and store hanging baskets, window boxes and other containers
- “All gardeners live in beautiful places because they make them so.” - Joseph Joubert
- Do not fertilize trees
- Start amaryllis bulbs if you want blooms for the holidays
- Mist houseplants every day or so with water at room temperature
- Empty, clean and store hanging baskets
- Make sure that all herb pots are either put in the soil in a sheltered area of the garden or well insulated to protect roots.
- Dormant fruit trees & bushes can be planted as bare-root specimens
- Wait until first hard frost to top-dress your perennial or herb beds with a layer of compost. If you mulch before the first hard frost, field mice and other little critters will burrow under the protection meant for your plants. By the first killing frost they would have found their winter homes.
- This is a good time to empty, clean and store hanging baskets, window boxes and movable containers
- Fertilize established beds of bulbs – ie, Bulb-tone, Holly-tone
- Do not fertilize plants you brought inside until you see new growth (usually around January)
- Refresh the mulch around your plants to help retain moisture and control weeds
- Avoid any heavy pruning jobs, as this will encourage growth that may be damaged during the winter.
- Plant hardy annuals, such as poppies, pansies, and larkspur
- Plant cool-season flowers, such as carnations, pansies, petunias, and snapdragons.
- Continue planting winter vegetables, such as beets, broccoli, cabbage, onions, radishes, and spinach.
- Remember the birds. As you prune, make a small pile in the back of the yard for your feathered friends.
- Pre-chill tulips and hyacinths for indoor forcing
- Time to start amaryllis bulbs and paper-whites for holiday blooming
- Use small stakes or markers where you've planted bulbs or late-starting plants in the perennial garden to avoid disturbing them when you begin spring soil preparation

- This is the time of year for transplanting your azaleas, rhododendrons, peonies and more.
- Apply lime to your lawn
- Spring flowering bulbs are often dramatically reduced in price, check quality prior to purchase
- Till under remaining annual flower beds, a little manure never hurts.
- Tulip bulbs may still be planted in the early part of the month.
- November is probably the best time of year to plant new trees and shrubs.
- Grass clippings, fallen leaves and vegetative debris from cleaning out your garden should be added to the compost pile
- Clean and oil your tools for winter storage
- Pot up any plants to save over winter: geraniums, impatiens, etc
- Dig up summer bulbs to store for the winter (gladioli, tuberous begonias, caladiums, dahlias..etc)
- Plant onion seeds and spinach in November—onions in the early part of the month and spinach transplants throughout
- Plant radishes, carrots, beets, and greens
- Make sure the last of your houseplants have been brought inside



December Gardening Chores



“If we had no winter, the spring would not be pleasant.” Anne Bradstreet

- Plant Amaryllis beginning of month, so it may come into bloom for the end of the year
- Cut back perennials that have turned to mush because of frost and discard.
- Clean and sharpen garden tools for storage
- Clean garden furniture and protect for the winter, if it will not be in use
- Check that arbors, trellis and fencing are in good order
- Feed wild birds and supply a source of clean water
- Plant up some containers for winter color
- If you are growing pots of forced bulbs, check the pots and bring them into a cool, well lit room when they are about 4 inches tall
- Bring a few stems of holly with berries into cool shed or garage to use for seasonal decorations
- As houseplants are growing more slowly in December light, cut down on watering by half until active growth resumes, hold off on fertilizing as well
- Cover your compost pile to prevent rains and snows from leaching out nutrients.
- Bring in the evergreens for holiday decorations
- Make holiday wreaths from grapevines, greens, and dry seedpods.
- Early winter is a good time to make an application of Dormant spray to help control overwintering insect and disease problems. A combination Lime Sulfur and Oil spray or Copper spray are the ones most often used for winter dormant spraying. Do not spray when the temperatures are below freezing; or when it is raining; or at a time when the wind is blowing. Of course, apply the spray according to label directions
- Browse and order from seed and garden catalogs
- Use sand on icy walks instead of salt to avoid plant and grass damage
- Relax and dream about next year's garden
- Don't forget gardening when you make out your holiday gift list!
- Slip some Rosemary sprigs in with your Christmas cards since rosemary is the herb of 'remembrance'
- Update your Garden Journal, if you don't have one, this might be the time to start one.
- Take pictures of your dormant garden, plan for new perennial and annual beds
- Organize your seed saver file
- Seed catalogs start arriving in December, plan for next year
- Apply mulch. Clear days are good for applying mulch to beds you didn't get to earlier in the fall.
- Rake up leaves
- Cut evergreen boughs for wreaths
- Don't over water your Poinsettias. Let the soil dry out slightly between watering. Put in a window that gets at least 4 hours of sun and keep out of drafts

- Still time to plant flowering bulbs and get late season discounts
- Monitor trees for winter damage and disease.
- Freezing weather can make paths, steps and driveways dangerously slippery and applying salt or grit can reduce the danger, however, if you apply them make sure the nearby flower beds, hedges or large plants are not contaminated
- January/ February - Start seeds indoors.

