

January Gardening

It's really hard to get motivated to do much of anything outdoors, but there are a few tasks and chores which you should do on those days when the weather is favorable!

Indoor house plants

- Amaryllis bulbs are out in abundance this time of year. IF you didn't receive one for the holidays, go out and buy one. These bulbs make a beautiful show indoors, and can help to make up for the loss of color now that the holiday decorations are being put away. Put your bulbs in a bright sunny location and water lightly until growth begins. Once you see signs of growth, make sure there is ample water but don't keep it saturated. Within six weeks you should have a stunning bloom.
- Leftover poinsettias can keep their color long after the holidays are over, with just a little care. Remove the foil wraps and give them a basket or other basin to catch overflow water. Give them bright sunlight and even moisture and the colorful bracts can remain bright for months. When the color starts to fade, cut the plants back by half if they have grown leggy and treat them like a houseplant. Give them bright light and even moisture and wait for spring to move them outdoors.

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● Garden Planning

- Design and plan the spring garden space. Early planning allows time to research plants' habits and performances. Review notes and photographs from the previous year.
- On warm days, take a look at the bare bones of your garden structure. See where plants can be placed, which plants might need to be moved, and write down your thoughts and ideas for future reference when the planting season begins.
- Continue to feed the birds!
- If your winter landscape is a bit dull, consider what plants you could add to make it more interesting. Plants with berries can brighten a winter landscape, and some have interesting bark, and foliage. A great accent plant is the contorted filbert, or Harry Lauder's Walking Stick. This twisted and gnarled plant is actually most attractive without its foliage. Hollies are loaded with berries, and so are many nandinas. Nandinas also have the advantage of red winter foliage. Some sasanqua camellias are still blooming, and the Mahonia will start to bloom in a month. If you are thinking of adding to your landscape, make sure you use plants that can add interest in every season.

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● Perennials, annuals, and bulbs

- Check your seed starting supplies and get everything on hand that you are going to need.
- Start perennials, geraniums, snapdragons, sweet peas and pansies. Many other plants such as lobelia and verbena also need to be started indoors by the end of the month to be ready for spring.
- Start ordering early from mail order sources for best seed and plant selection.

- Soil moisture levels should still be good, but do pay attention, to containerized plants outdoors, which may need some extra water, especially prior to a hard freeze. Pansies and other winter annuals are blooming well, provided you planted them early enough. We usually have periods of warmer weather throughout the winter, and when we do, consider adding a little extra fertilizer to your plants. Clip off the spent flowers to keep them blooming. Pansies and violas can freeze solid, then defrost and keep blooming.
- Hopefully you have planted all of your spring bulbs by now, but if you find a bag of bulbs that didn't get planted, plant them as soon as possible. Keep in mind that all spring bulbs must go through a chilling process of a minimum of twelve weeks to be able to grow tall and give you the best results. You can't hang on to those bulbs for another year they would dry out and be lost. If you planted early, you may have noticed the foliage emerging. For many bulbs that is normal, and you need to avoid damaging it. Keep in mind some early bulbs early crocus and daffodils can start blooming in February so their foliage should begin to appear.

- **Shrubs and trees**

- Avoid the use of salt based products on sidewalks and drives. Sand or cat litter provides
- good traction on slick spots without damage to lawn, ornamentals, or concrete.
- Take hardwood cuttings as well as from Roses.
- If you have plants that need to be relocated to a different part of your landscape, we are smack dab in the middle of the dormant period, so move at will. You may want to pick a day that is not terribly cold. Not only will it be easier on you, but also on your plants. Pay particular attention to the roots. The tops are acclimated to cold, and can take it, but the root system has been protected by soil and mulch, and is not particularly cold hardy.
- Wrap the root ball if the move is any distance, and get them replanted ASAP. Subjecting the roots to extended cold or drying out, can lead to damaged or even dead plants.
- When the temperatures are below freezing, avoid much contact with plant material outside. Frozen plants are brittle, and limbs can be broken easily. If ice or snow is on your plants, use caution around them. Heavy loads of snow can be lightly brushed off, but stay away from ice laden plants. You can't remove the ice without breaking off branches. If you have shrubs that are subject to winter damage gardenias, etc. and temperatures are predicted well below 15 _ 20 degrees, a light covering with sheets, blankets, etc. can help. Avoid using plastic, which can encourage more temperature fluctuations, if the sun is out.
- Watch out for newly planted trees and shrubs, and water if needed. While the temperatures are colder, plants won't use as much water, nor will we lose it to evaporation, but some moisture may be needed if we don't get it naturally.
- Its always better to be prepared. In the event of winter damage to your outside shrubs, don't be too quick to prune. Any broken limbs or branches should be removed as quickly as you can, but if you simply have burned foliage, leave it alone until spring. Hopefully, any damage will be superficial, and the plants will bounce back on their own. If not, the damaged foliage can serve as a buffer in the event of more winter weather. Hopefully, this information will be simply reference material, and we won't have to use it this winter season.

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- **Fruits and veggies**

- Prune Grapes.
- Prune Fruit trees and spray with Lime Sulphur and Dormant Oil to prevent insects and diseases.
- Spray Copper Spray to prevent Peach Leaf Curl.
- If you had terrible insect problems in your vegetable garden this year particularly grubs, squash vine borers, and other soil insects, tilling your garden in the winter can help to control them. Many of these insects burrow down in the ground and spend the winter in a larval stage. Tilling can bring them closer to the surface and low temperatures can help to kill them. Don't do this if the ground is too wet, but if the soil is workable, this can help to start the season off clean.
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- **Lawn care :**
- Stay off frozen grass.
- If you see greening up occurring in your warm-season lawns such as Bermuda, zoysia or St. Augustine, that means winter weeds are establishing themselves. Using a 2,4-D broadleaf weed killer, can stop them in their tracks before they get large, bloom and set seeds.
- You may not have gotten to all the fallen leaves raking can still be done this month. Shredded leaves can be added as a mulch to flower beds or even the vegetable garden.
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February Gardening

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- Don't be caught off guard this month with Mother Nature sending us a few blossoms, winter is not over yet! Following are some gardening tips for February:
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- **Shrubs and trees**
- Deciduous shrubs and trees are still dormant enough to transplant this month, once the buds have begun to swell, I would recommend waiting until fall. Plant new roses, or move old roses soon after February 15.
- Mid to late February is a good time to fertilize trees, shrubs and evergreens. Use an acid type fertilizer to feed evergreens, conifers, broad leaf evergreens, rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias. Use an all_purpose fertilizer to feed roses and other deciduous trees and shrubs. If you use dry type fertilizers, be sure to water it in thoroughly.
- You can prune evergreens for size and shape. Prune hydrangeas during the last week of the month. Avoid pruning flowering shrubs such as forsythia, quince, spirea, azalea and other early spring flowering shrubs since they have already produced their buds last fall, and pruning them now will result in the loss of flowers. After pruning, dispose of clippings to prevent disease or insect spread.
- Spring blooming shrubs can be forced to bloom indoors by cutting stems when buds begin to swell and placed in water indoors. Warmer temperatures will stimulate blooming. Place sprays of forsythia, flowering quince, pussy willow or fruit trees in a vase in a sunny window.
- **Perennials, annuals, and bulbs**
- If exceptionally cold weather is forecast, provide protection to early flowering or tender plants by covering them with some type of cloth material. Remove the covering as soon as the weather

moderates again.

- Plan your summer flower garden and peruse books, magazines, and catalogs for ideas and inspiration.
- Plant cold weather annuals Nasturtiums, Pansies, Violas, Snapdragons, English Daisies, Sweet William, Gazanias, and Calendulas.
- Deciduous vines such as honeysuckle can be easily pruned and shaped.
- Most perennials may be divided and moved up until they begin to show new growth.
- If you plan to grow your own annuals such as ageratum, verbena, petunia, vinca, or other slowing plants, the seeds should be started indoors this month.

- **Fruits and veggies**

- Rhubarb, horseradish, asparagus and artichokes can be planted this month.
- Start cold weather vegetables such as broccoli, cauliflower, onion sets, English peas, kale, carrots, collards, beets, radishes, kohlrabi, and Chinese cabbage in cold frames.
- Like your flower garden, plan your vegetable and try growing some new things.
- Start seeds of herbs indoors for transplant outdoors.
- Grapes must be pruned by Valentines day to prevent sap 'bleeding'.
- Strawberries can be planted as soon as they become available.
- Cane fruits (raspberries and blackberries), with the exception of everbearers should have all the canes which produced fruit last year removed.
- If you grow currants, remove all trunks which are over 3 years old.
- The vegetable garden should get its first tilling (if weather permits) to allow the weather to aid you in breaking up the dirt clods.

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- **Lawn care**

- February through April is an ideal time to apply a combination of slow-release fertilizer and pre-emergent herbicide for crabgrass control to your lawn. Apply this combination before dandelions reach the puff-ball stage. Be sure to follow label directions.

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- **Indoor house plants**

- House plants may notice the longer days, and begin growing. You can begin feeding them again, but use a dilute 50% fertilizer mix until the growth is robust.
- Consider purchasing and forcing indoor flowering bulbs such as paper whites or amarylis which many garden centers are currently selling.
- If you haven't given your plants a warm shower lately to rinse off foliage dust and dirt and flush excess fertilizer salts from their roots, now would be a good time.

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- **Equipment**

- Check your gardening tools for rust. Clean rust from spades and hoes. Prevent future rust by coating tool heads with mineral oil or used motor oil.
- Inspect your pruning saws, clippers, and shovels and sharpen if needed.

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March Gardening Calendar

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- With Spring just around the corner, it is time to get serious and get the garden ready! The fickle weather of March makes it impossible to set dates and schedules for planting, so proceed with caution!
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- **Shrubs and trees**
- You can prune summer flowering shrubs like Crepe Myrtle after the last extremely cold weather but before they leaf out significantly.
- Early March is still a good time to transplant shrubs, trees, and hardy vines.
- Fertilize shrubs and trees if this wasn't done in February. Use an acid type fertilizer to feed evergreens, conifers, broad leaf evergreens, rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias. Use an all-purpose fertilizer to feed roses and other deciduous trees and shrubs. If you use granular type fertilizers, be sure to water it in thoroughly.
- Roses can be pruned this month. Severe pruning results in long stemmed flowers and more compact bushes. Begin to spray roses for blackspot.
- Prune winter Jasmine after flowering.
- Cut trumpet creeper vine back now in that it flowers on new growth and pruning will promote better flowering.

- **Perennials, annuals, and bulbs**
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- Wait to prune any semi-woody perennials like *Salvia greggii*, *Lavender*, *Sage*, *Artemisia*, and *Careopteris* until the end of the month due to the sudden changes in temperature we still can experience.
- If you are growing your summer annuals, early March is when many summer blooming annuals should be sown indoors. Follow catalog or seed package directions.
- Seeds which were started indoors last month will most likely be ready to be transplanted into their finishing containers and given dilute fertilizer.
- If you have a greenhouse, it is time to take cuttings of 'wintered over' plants such as Coleus, Chrysanthemums, Geraniums, and other perennials.
- Winter's alternating thawing and freezing temperatures can heave plants right out of the ground. If you notice any plants that have heaved, lightly tamp them back into the ground with your foot.
- Divide and transplant clumping perennials such as daylily and hosta and fertilize established ones as soon as new growth appears. Transplant any free seeding perennials such as hellebore or coreopsis as they appear.
- Cut-back ornamental grasses to just above their growing crown. Divide any thick and overgrown clumps and fertilize established grasses as soon as new growth appears.
- Plant tender bulbs and tubers (gladiola, lilies and dahlias). You may continue planting additional bulbs every two weeks until mid June to ensure a continuous source of bloom.
- Set your mower on it highest height and mow your ivy, vinca, and monkey grass ground covers to easily remove old foliage.

- Fertilize any pansies, violas, and snapdragons which you planted in the fall to boost their spring blooming.
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- **Fruits and veggies**
- Finish pruning fruit trees this month - before the buds swell.
- You can still do dormant spraying of fruit trees - before the buds swell. Spraying should be done on a still day with the temperature above 40 degrees F.
- Remove straw mulch from strawberries at the first sign of growth.
- You can still plant strawberries, blueberries, currants, loganberries, boysenberries, grapes and fruit trees.
- Fertilize rhubarb.
- Take a little time to prepare the vegetable garden soil for planting. The addition of well-rotted manure, processed manure, peat moss or compost are good additives for building compost humus in the soil.
- For early March, its not too late to plant peas as well as perennial vegetables like asparagus, rhubarb, horseradish and artichokes.
- Be sure to get these cool-season annual veggies in this month and the sooner the better! Spinach, head and leaf lettuce, collards, turnip greens, onions, beets, broccoli, cabbage, Brussel sprouts, cauliflower, carrots, egg plant, early potatoes, radish and Swiss chard can be direct seeded or transplanted into the garden.
- Aphids and caterpillars can be especially bad on early crops so watch and treat as they appear.
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- **Lawn care**
- Repair damaged areas of the lawn and overseed. Be sure to not apply any pre-emergent herbicides to newly seeded areas.
- Dethatch, rake or aerate your lawn. Apply dolomite lime if a soil test indicates its needed. Most lawns will need a spring feeding but if thatching or liming needs to be done, do those jobs first.
- Now through April is an ideal time to apply a combination of slow-release fertilizer and pre-emergent herbicide for crabgrass control to your lawn. You want to apply this combination before dandelions reach the puff-ball stage. The fertilizer will boost the growth of your lawn and have it looking great for spring and the herbicide will prevent crabgrass. Numerous brands are on the market and which ever you select, be sure to follow label directions.
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- **House Plants**
- House plants will react to longer days and brighter light at this time by putting out new growth. March is a good time to pinch them back to generate new growth and to thicken their growth. You can then begin fertilizing again with a dilute solution of soluble house plant food.
- Remain vigilante in watching for insects and pests. It is much easier to win a 'bug war' if you are aware of the infestation in it's early stages.
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- **Odds and ends**
- March is a good time to note areas of poor drainage in your landscape. If there are pools of water in your yard that do not drain, fill in the low spot or scoop out a channel for the water to drain

away.

- Clean out all of your birdhouses now, so that they will be ready when the birds return.

April Gardening Calendar

- This is an action-packed month for gardening. Gardens are bursting with color from all of the flowering bulbs and spring flowering trees and shrubs but you probably have weeds popping up everywhere as well. Temperatures are cool enough that its pleasant to work outdoors but its warm enough that perennials plants have broken their dormancy. This also is the month when we have our last frost making it a great time to plant annuals and vegetables. Following are some gardening ideas and suggestions to help you do the most for your garden this month:

- **Shrubs and trees**

- You can prune summer flowering shrubs like Crepe Myrtle after the last extremely cold weather but before they leaf out significantly.
- Prune spring flowering shrub like forsythia, weigela, Japanese quince, and lilac within 2 to 3 weeks after the last petals have dropped. Prune these shrubs at the base, near the ground to help rejuvenate its growth and keep it flowering heavy.
- Fertilize shrubs and trees if this wasn't done in February or March. Use an acid type fertilizer to feed evergreens, conifers, broad leaf evergreens, rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias. Use an all-purpose fertilizer to feed roses and other deciduous trees and shrubs. If you use granular type fertilizers, be sure to water it in thoroughly.

- **Perennials, annuals, and bulbs**

- Prune any semi-woody perennials like *Salvia greggii*, *Lavender*, *Sage*, *Artemisia*, and *Careopteris*.
- Prepare your annual planting beds now so they are ready when you want to plant. The addition of well-rotted manure, processed manure, peat moss or compost are good additives for building compost humus in the soil. I recommend not planting annuals until after April 15 th, our average last frost-free date.
- Plant tender bulbs and tubers (gladiola, lilies and dahlias). You may continue planting additional bulbs every two weeks until mid June to ensure a continuous source of bloom.
- Deadhead or remove spent flowers from spring blooming bulbs. Don't remove foliage until it yellows or freely pulls loose when slightly tugged.
- Fertilize spring blooming bulbs just after blooming. A complete fertilizer such as 5-10-10 at a rate of 2 pounds per 100 sq. ft.
- If you noticed smaller blooms on your bulbs this spring, divide crowded planting as blooming finishes (especially daffodils).
- Watch for iris borer on your iris. For control, use Dimethoate (Cygon 2E) when the new growth is 6-9 inches in height and then as needed.
- Stake now, any perennials which lodge or fall over from the weight of their heavy blooms in late

spring or summer. Staking now will allow plenty of time for new growth to hide your support structures, preventing them from taking away from the beauty of your perennials.

- Stake clematis and any other vines which could use the added support as new growth emerges and they begin to flower.
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- **Fruits and veggies**
- While fruit trees are blooming, refrain from spraying any insecticides to protect the bee population busy pollinating the flowers. Within a week after petal drop, you can resume using any pesticides.
- After petal drop, consider spraying your peach, plum, and cherry fruit trees for protection from fungal diseases like brown rot, rust, and leaf spots. Maneb (also sold as mancozeb and dithane) works well for these diseases.
- You can still plant these cool-season veggies this month: spinach, head and leaf lettuce, collards, turnip greens, onions, beets, broccoli, cabbage, Brussel sprouts, cauliflower, carrots, early potatoes, radish and Swiss chard can be direct seeded or transplanted into the garden.
- After April 15 th, plant warm season veggies like tomatoes, peppers, and corn. Planting of the “high sugar” or sugar sweet corn varieties should b delayed until May 1 st because the seeds do not germinate in cold garden soils.
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- **Lawn care**
- For warm season grasses such as zoysia or Bermuda grass, April 15 th marks your fist application of fertilizer. Use 1 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft.
- Until April 15 th, its an ideal time to apply a combination of slow-release fertilizer and pre-emergent herbicide for crabgrass control to your cool-season (fescue) lawn. You want to apply this combination before dandelions reach the puff-ball stage. The fertilizer will boost the growth of your lawn and have it looking great for summer and the herbicide will prevent crabgrass. Numerous brands are on the market and which ever you select, be sure to follow label directions.
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- **Odds and ends**
- Edge your garden beds.
- Clean your pond or water feature and remove winter debris. Cutback and remove all dead plant debris from your potted aquatic plants. Begin feeding fish around mid-April.
- Pull weeds now while the task is easy and the weather is pleasant. You may find it easier to use a chemical like Round-up to “spot” spray weeds in a flower bed. Be careful when using such chemicals to not spray it on desired plants. Round-up and its related chemicals are not selective herbicides and work by killing anything green.
- Its good to maintain a layer of 3"- 4" of mulch around your plants in your garden. Now is a great time to add any needed mulch to your garden getting it ready for the possibly hot and dry summer.
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May Gardening Calendar

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- May is an important month to get your summer garden established. Its an ideal month to plant everything you want in your garden before hot temperatures set in. Following are some suggestions for your May garden.
- Keep an eye on watering everything which is newly planted. It doesn't take much for new little transplants to dry out and die before they have a chance to get established. Check everyday for adequate moisture until plants take-off and start to grow.
- Be sure to mow you lawn at the correct height. For turf-type fescues and bluegrass, have your mowing height to 2 ½ ". The higher you cut your lawn the deeper the roots will grow helping it survive dry spells. Do not lime or fertilize your fescue or bluegrass lawns until late summer.
- Deadhead or prune back spent flowers on your perennials. This will manicure your garden and can stimulate reblooming of delphinium and columbine as well as other perennials.
- You can selectively prune spring-flowering shrubs such as azalea, forsythia, weigela, lilac, beauty bush, and mockorange to control their growth or improve their shape as well as increase their bloom next year.
- May is strawberry-picking month. Stock up on ice cream and whipped cream.
- Fertilize strawberry plants after their fruit has been harvested with 2 lbs. of 10-10-10 per 100 sq. ft.
- Spray fruit trees and grapes early in the month with preventative fungicides. Do not use insecticides until all blooms have disappeared so not to harm the natural bee population.
- May is the month for iris and peonies. Enjoy their cutflowers in vases in your home.
- Thin (pick off) excess fruits from apple, pear and peach trees to a ratio of one fruit per 6-8 inches of branch.
- Stake tall growing perennials such as foxglove and true lilies to prevent them from lodging.
- If your peonies fail to flower this month, it could be that they are planted too deep. They should be planted 2" deep and receive at least 6 hrs. of sunlight.
- Direct seed sunflowers in your garden and stagger their planting by every week or two through July so you have flowers until frost.
- As the days get hotter and your pansies show stress, remove them and replace with summer annuals.
- When planting summer annuals, consider pinching and removing the flowers to stimulate branching and the production of many more flowers.
- Be sure to train new vines onto trellis or posts with the aid of twine. Plastic twine should be used to support the weight of the vine throughout the growing season.
- Don't forget to apply pre-emergent herbicides such as Preen to newly planted flower and vegetable gardens to prevent weeds. Be sure to follow label directions.
- Stalks of bearded, Siberian, and Japanese iris should be removed as flower fade.
- If you have had a grub problem or other insects in your lawn, now is an ideal time to apply either a grub-controlling insecticide or one labeled for the insects you want to control.
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June Gardening Calendar

- June is the month when your garden really gets established and takes off. The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture suggests you take the following steps to make the most of your June garden.
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- **Perennials, Annuals, & Bulbs**
- Don't forget to water newly planted plants. It can still be critical. Also, as temperatures increase and plants mature, keep a close eye on watering containerized plants. If any of the foliage of your annuals or newly planted perennials looks pale or yellow, and you have watered adequately, consider giving them a boost with a fertilizer labeled for flowers.
- Caladiums are heavy feeders so make sure you fertilize them regularly.
- Japanese beetles can be a problem this month. Look for them on hibiscus and roses.
- Many perennials will keep flowering if cut back after their first bloom period. Such plants include garden phlox, heliopsis, veronica, echinacea, and platycodon.
- Don't forget to stake tall-growing perennials such as goldenrod, boltonia, rudbeckia, tansy, helianthus, and Joe pye weed to prevent them from lodging once in bloom. They may not look like they need it now, but a hard rain or high wind will bend them over when they are in bloom.
- You can still direct-seed sunflowers in your garden. Stagger their planting by every week or two through July, and you will have flowers until frost.
- Fall-flowering plants such as asters, mums, goldenrod, sedum, and Joe-pye weed can be cut back to make them shorter and stockier when they bloom. Cut their current growth three-quarter of the way back this month to have them looking great and in bloom this fall.
- Deadheading is a must this month. Many annuals and perennials need to be deadheaded to keep plants looking good and blooming all season. Such plants include geraniums, certain petunias, marigolds, salvia, and roses.
- Bearded iris should be divided soon after flowering. By dividing now, the plants have time to get established, increasing the chance of flowers next year.
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- **Shrubs & Trees**
- Keep newly planted trees and shrubs well watered during periods of drought.
- Azaleas, pieris, mountain laurel and other ericaceous (acid loving) species need to be fertilized one more time before August 15 using an acid-based soluble fertilizer containing iron.
- Spray monthly against sap-feeding lacebugs. Target the underside of leaves with an appropriate insecticide, insecticidal soap or summer oil. Be sure to follow label directions.
- Watch for fall web-worms with their webbing at the ends of branches. Prune out the webs that can be reached. Various insecticides are available if chemical control is desired.
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- **Fruits & Veggies**
- Traditional strawberries go semi-dormant after harvest, and this is an ideal time to fertilize them with a complete fertilizer.
- Continue to spray a multi-purpose fruit tree spray consisting of an insecticide and fungicide to prevent any insect and disease problems. Spray until 10 days before harvest.
- Remove all root suckers at the base of all fruit trees, particularly apple and pear, and all thick water sprouts shooting up straight on the branches. Also remove any diseased, dying or insect

riddled wood.

- Keep tomatoes pruned and staked or in cages.
- Prevent blossom-end rot of tomato by providing deep and regular watering with drip irrigation or soaker hoses in addition to mulching for water conservation. Fertilizing with calcium nitrate rather than agricultural grade 10-10-10 fertilizer also helps. Varieties resistant to blossom-end rot include 'Celebrity', 'Goliath' and 'Mountain Pride'.
- Harvest cucumbers, green beans and summer squash when they are ready. If you stop picking, production will halt.
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- **Lawn Care**
- June is an ideal month to seed, sod or plant plugs of Bermuda grass or other warm-season grasses like zoysia.
- Fertilize and dethatch warm-season lawns.
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July Gardening Calendar

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- The summer garden is pretty much our reward for all the hard work from March through June. During these lazy warm days the perennial and annual gardens are strutting their colors and the harvest of the first tomatoes and cucumbers means BLT's, thick juicy sandwiches and robust salads...hmm. Following are some tips for your July gardening calendar:

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- **Perennials, Annuals, & Bulbs**

- This is a great month to watch for cutflowers to enjoy inside your home as well as those to dry for everlasting.
- Continue to deadhead (remove dead flowers) various annuals and perennials to encourage profuse blooming.
- Start perusing bulb catalogs and get your order in soon to ensure you get your selections.
- Tall, fall-flowering perennials such as swamp sunflower, joe-pye weed, iron weed, mums, and asters can be cut back by one-third to one-half to reduce their ultimate height and prevent them from lodging (falling over).
- Watch for crabgrass and other weeds that easily can invade your summer garden.
- July typically will be drier than any month so far in the gardening season so be sure to keep plants watered, especially container gardens.
- Purchase fall blooming perennials for this year's garden such as anemone, hardy sunflowers (*Helianthus* spp.), goldenrod (*Solidago*), sedums, and toad lily (*Tricyrtis*). There are some fantastic sales on unsold perennials in July and August which can beautify your garden this year and next. Take advantage of price cuts and shop early for the best selection. Again, be sure to water these plants well until they become established in your garden.
- You can still direct seed sunflowers in your garden to ensure their colorful show until frost.
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- **Shrubs & Trees**

- Prune hydrangeas right after bloom if you need to cut them back. Flower buds are formed in late summer and early fall, so late fall and winter pruning removes these buds and eliminates next year's flowers.
- Prune Clematis and Wisteria when they are finished flowering.
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- **Fruits & Veggies**

- Harvest vegetables regularly from your garden to keep it productive. Letting squash turn as big as baseball bats will cause production to go down. Harvest vegetables at their peak of maturity for maximum nutrition and quality.
- If your garden is overflowing with zucchini and cucumbers, and you've made all the pickles you can stand, consider taking your extra produce to our local food pantry, Second Harvest, and participate in the 'Plant a Row for the Hungry' campaign. You can contact them at 521-0000.
- July 10 th is the last planting date for green beans to be sown in the garden.
- It may become necessary to cover fruit trees with netting to protect fruit from the birds.
- Blackberries need to be pruned after their harvest is ended. Remove the dying fruiting canes and tip back the vigorous, new growth two or three times to form a dense hedge for greater fruit production.
- Begin preparing for the fall garden in July. That's right! It may seem odd to start a fall garden in the summertime, but you need to get plants started in time for harvests before first freeze. Late July or early August set out broccoli, cabbage, and cauliflower transplants. Also sow seed of lettuce, collards, kale, spinach.
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- **Lawn Care**

- Its okay to not water your lawn and let it go dormant. As cooler weather and rainfall return, it will be revived.
- If you desire your lawn to be green and lush through summer, mow at a higher height and water deeply. Applying water in early morning is best.
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- **Miscellaneous**

- This is an ideal time to visit the University of Tennessee Gardens located on UT's Agriculture Campus along Neyland Drive . Bring a notebook to jot down the top performers that you may want to include in your garden next year.
- Keep bird baths clean and filled with water through the hot weather.
- Clean out cold frames for use in the fall.
- You should be receiving fall nursery catalogues in the mail soon. Now would be the time to begin planning a new garden.
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August Gardening Calendar:

- Sweet corn has never been sweeter, watermelon never so refreshing as those eaten in August. This is the month to sit back and enjoy the bounty of your garden. Being the beginning of the

harvest season, it's a time to "put things up" for the coming cold months. Don't forget to harvest cutflowers and herbs as well. However, it's a hot month too and you will most likely have to work at keeping things watered. Following are some tips for your August gardening calendar:

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- **Perennials, Annuals, & Bulbs**
- Keep after the crabgrass and other weeds that want to invade your lawn and garden. Avoid letting weeds go to seed letting them be an even bigger problem next year. If you want to use chemical control, be sure to select the appropriate herbicide for the location of your weeds and always follow label directions.
- Purchase fall blooming perennials for this year's garden such as anemone, sunflowers
- (*Helianthus* spp.), goldenrod (*Solidago*), sedums and toad lily (*Tricyrtis*). There are some fantastic sales on unsold perennials in August which can beautify your garden this year and next. Take advantage of price cuts and shop early for the best selection.
- If you have the space, sweet autumn clematis will brighten up any landscape from mid August to frost. The perennial vine grows on a trellis or covers a large ground area in full sun.
- Plant some fall blooming crocus bulbs and if you haven't already, order your spring flowering bulbs now to be planted this October-November.
- If using liquid fertilizer, continue to fertilize annuals and container plants.
- Be sure to keep garden mums well fertilized until buds show color.
- Sow Wildflower seeds.

- **Shrubs & Trees**
- Avoid pruning trees and shrubs, particularly hedging plants such as boxwood, hemlock and hollies since doing so this late in the season can stimulate new growth that will not harden off in time for the cold winter weather ahead. Delay pruning until the end of the dormant season early next spring.
- Azaleas, pieris, mountain laurel and other ericaceous (acid loving) species need to be fertilized one more time before the end of August using an acid based soluble fertilizer containing iron.
- Spray against sap feeding lacebugs. Spray the underside of leaves with an appropriate insecticide, insecticidal soap or summer oil.
- Fertilize roses to encourage last new growth and hardening off before frost.
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- **Fruits & Veggies**
- Dig potatoes after the tops have died down.
- For late crops of beets, bush beans, cabbage, carrots, collards, kale, lettuce, peas, spinach, turnips, kohlrabi, and onion, continue sowing seeds until August 15th. Transplants can still be planted of broccoli, early cabbage, cauliflower, collards, kale and onions as well.
- Make the second application of fertilizer on new plantings of June bearing strawberries. Apply 3 lbs. of 10-10-10 per 100 feet of row.
- After the last raspberry harvest for the year, prepare for next year while also avoiding diseases by pruning out old flowering canes leaving only 3-4 young canes per foot of row. Wait until spring to prune back shoot tips.
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- **Lawn Care**

- Fertilize your tall fescue and bermuda lawns in late August using a high nitrogen fertilizer of a 5:1:1 ratio. If the lawn needs extensive renovation and aeration, wait until early September when the “springtime of lawn care” has arrived.
- As Japanese beetles return to the soil late in the month, treat again for grubs with milky spore disease or beneficial nematodes. This will reduce winter mole destruction on your lawn.
- During dry spells, continue to mow high.

- **Miscellaneous**

- Hummingbirds migrate in August so keep feeders full.
- Photograph your garden to help yourself remember what you did and did not like this year. See what works, what doesn't, and when the time comes to add or remove plants, you will be able to see what needs to be done when you analyze the photos this Winter. You will know what plants you need to move, remove, or add.
- Change the water in your bird bath regularly, and keep it filled. Standing water is less healthy for the birds, and may become a breeding ground for mosquito larvae.
- Continue to aerate and moisten compost pile to speed decomposition.

- ## September Gardening Calendar

- **Shrubs and trees**

- Work on a landscape plan for fall planting of trees and shrubs. Most of the planting should wait until late October and November, but supplies will be at their peak in garden centers.
- Fertilize roses one last time
- Prune rambler roses
- Prune to remove any diseased and dead rose canes
- Root prune wisteria that doesn't bloom

- **Perennials, annuals, and bulbs**

- Plan spring bulb gardens and purchase bulbs. A variety of bulbs can have different heights and bloom times, so create your gardens accordingly. Most of the planting should wait until October, but supplies will be at their peak in garden centers.
- Divide, transplant and label perennials. As these plants die back in the fall, it is a great time to divide older plants. Complete divisions by mid October to allow the roots time to establish themselves before winter. Be sure to keep newly divided plants watered.
- If you've grown tender bulbs this summer such as caladium, dahlia, gladiolus this is the month to dig them and put them into storage for next year's use.
- Continue to take garden notes and /or photographs to plan future plantings.
- Collect seed from perennials and annuals.
- Continue to cut flowers for drying: yarrow, strawflower, gomphrena, cockscomb, etc
- Remove and compost spent annuals and fallen leaves

- Plant late season annuals like pansies, snapdragons, *Dianthus chinensis*, ornamental kale and cabbage for fall through spring color.
- **Lawn care**
- De-thatch and core aerate existing lawns to promote root growth and improve fertilizer absorption and seed germination.
- Lime lawns if a soil test indicates it is necessary.
- Perk up your lawn by fertilizing with nitrogen fertilizers. These will speed lawn growth, thicken the lawn and improve its color.
- If you have thin or bare areas in your lawn, seed and mulch them to reduce erosion and weeds.
- Fall is also the time to introduce new, improved varieties or a tall fescue blend. You should do your seeding by mid October, but you can fertilize as late as mid November.
- Get your bermudagrass or Zoysia lawns ready for winter by increasing the cutting height this month. This helps buffer these grasses from cold damage.
- Applying a fertilizer with potassium can also increase the hardiness of your warm season grasses to winter cold. Look for fertilizers formulated with a preemergence herbicide to prevent seeds of annual bluegrass and other winter weeds from germinating and competing with your grasses for light, nutrients and water.
- If you find your lawn is too shady for grass, now would be a great time to remove lower limbs and "dead wood" from large trees greatly increasing the amount of light reaching your lawn.
- Remove algae and moss from a shady lawn by raking or applying copper sulfate.
- Since grasses growing in shade are usually weak and spindly, remove fallen leaves as soon as possible.
- **Fruits and veggies**
- If rain is lacking, continue to practice water wise techniques for your cool-season garden.
- Add organic matter such as manure, compost and/or leaf mold to improve garden soils
- Keep harvesting herbs, especially tender herbs like basil.
- Make Pesto and freeze it, or put the basil in sealed plastic bags in the freezer.
- Keep Harvesting tomatoes, peppers, etc. Harvest onions and garlic as soon as the tops fall over and begin to dry out.
- You can still plant cool season crops including leaf lettuce, spinach, cabbage, broccoli, Swiss chard, parsley, and radishes.
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- **Odds and ends**
- Don't forget to go to the fair this month. It's fun to see the exhibits, and look at what other folks have raised. You can get good ideas of what varieties of plants to grow.
- Bring house plants back indoors and inspect for insects. As the temperature begins to drop, watch your plants closely in the evening.
- Continue to aerate and moisten compost pile to speed decomposition
- Take in tender aquatic plants from ponds
- Begin to feed birds

- **October Gardening Calendar**

- October is typically the driest month in Tennessee so be sure to keep your garden watered. Here are some tips from the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture for fall garden maintenance:

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- **Shrubs and trees**

- You'll find a good supply of trees and shrubs at local suppliers and October is just the beginning of the ideal season to install such plants in your garden. If you do plant in October, definitely water plants well until rainfall picks up in November and December.

- **Perennials, annuals, and bulbs**

- One last effort at weeding will help to improve the appearance of your garden throughout the winter. Any weed which you can eliminate from the garden this fall will possibly prevent thousands of weed seeds from sprouting in the garden next spring!
- Garden centers and nurseries are well stocked with spring flowering bulbs and late October and early November is the ideal time to get them planted.
- Collect and save seeds of wildflowers to sow either right now allowing the seeds to over-winter in your garden or wait and sow early next spring.
- Now is an ideal time to plant winter annuals in your garden for a great show of color from now until spring. Great plants to include in your winter garden are pansies, violas, snapdragons, and *Dianthus*. They can be planted in mass for a major splash of color in your landscape or use them in containers to add color in different strategic spots. Such winter hardy herbs as parsley, thyme, and rosemary make great container companions with winter annuals. Also, consider inter-planting your winter annuals with bulbs of daffodils, tulips, and hyacinths. Planting bulbs between such hardy annuals will bring a surprise burst of color in the spring. And when the fading bulb's foliage begins to wither, the winter annuals are so colorful that one barely notices the bulbs' yellowing foliage.
- It's a good time to spruce up your garden by cutting-back withering perennial blooms and adding a fresh layer of mulch. If you do add new mulch, be sure to follow-up with a pre-emergent herbicide to prevent an invasion of winter weeds.
- Mums are here. A variety of sizes and colors await your garden. Some people grow mums as year-round perennials, often enjoying two seasons of blooms—a light display in late spring, and another show in the fall. Others opt for treating them as fall annuals, sinking pots in the ground or among their other garden plants. Either way, mums are a great way to add extra color to the fall garden.
- Keep your garden and lawn raked clean of a **heavy** layer of leaves and debris. Fallen leaves, old plant parts and grass clippings should be added to the compost pile.

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- **Lawn care**

- Fall is an ideal time to renew tall fescue lawns that have suffered during hot, dry summer months. Fertilizing with nitrogen-containing fertilizers will speed lawngrass growth, thicken the lawn and improve its' color.
- Seeding and mulching bare areas will provide erosion control and reduce the potential for weed

problems.

- Core aerifying will help water and nutrients move into hard soils. If your lawn is weak and thin and you intend to seed, a power rake can be used to lift thatch and expose soil before planting. Now may be the time to introduce a new, improved variety or tall fescue blend. It is best to be done with seeding your lawn by mid-October but fertilizer can be applied as late as mid-December.
- Its not too late to prepare your bermudagrass or *Zoysia* lawn for winter this fall. By increasing the cutting height now, you can help buffer these lawngresses from extreme low temperatures in winter. The application of a potassium-containing fertilizer may also improve your lawns' low-temperature hardiness and drought tolerance. Several fertilizers are specially formulated to help "winterize" bermudagrass and *Zoysia*. Some may also contain a pre-emergence herbicide to prevent seeds of annual bluegrass and other winter annual weeds from germinating and competing with lawn grasses for light, nutrients and water.

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- **Fruits and veggies**

- Pumpkins, summer squashes, and gourds to be stored should be harvested before the first frost. Pumpkins that have begun showing color will continue to ripen after harvest. Use great care not to nick the rind during harvest since this will lead to more rapid deterioration.
- Dig and divide congested clumps of rhubarb.
- Apple varieties are showing up at fresh markets and roadside stands. Seek out some new varieties to eat fresh or create delicious desserts with. Apple trees can be planted now, too. Select disease resistant ones such as Redfree, Prima, Priscilla, Jonafree, Nova Easygro, and Liberty .
- Keep harvesting second plantings of the cool season vegetables including radishes, lettuce, Chinese cabbage, chard, spinach, broccoli, and the other cole crops. Some such as parsnips, Brussels sprouts, and kale actually have enhanced flavor after a frost.
- Plant individual cloves of garlic now for a crop of garlic bulbs next summer. Select very large cloves to produce the largest bulbs. Plant them 6" deep and at least 6" apart. Mulch them after the ground freezes for winter protection.
- Some root crops, such as carrots, onions, and parsnips can be left in the ground and dug up as needed. Apply enough mulch to keep the ground from freezing, and the crop will be kept fresh until it is needed.
- If diseases or insects wiped out your peach or other fruit crop this year, cleanup is definitely called for. Destroy any fallen fruit from under your trees, and remove any that have mummified on the tree. These fruits will be loaded with problems, and cause an early attack next year. Consider getting a home fruit spray schedule from your local extension office now, so you are prepared next year.
- After you have finished harvesting your summer vegetables, plant a cover crop of clovers, cow peas, soybeans, or vetches for the purpose of plowing under next spring. These nitrogen producing plants will provide good organic matter and food for your garden crops next year, as well as helping to control weeds over the winter.

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- **Odds and ends**

- Now is a great time to do fall decorating in your garden which works well all season long, from

the first hint of cool air and autumn color to late November and Thanksgiving. The key is making displays that use the traditional icons of fall - hay bales, scarecrows, corn-stalks - as supporting cast for the lead players - pumpkins, gourds, Indian corn, garden or pot mums, fall pansies, asters, ornamental kale and other blooming plants. Hay bales are especially useful "benches" for building versatile displays, while corn-stalks add height and definition. Such displays can add a festive touch to a front porch or the landscape in strategic places like a light post or the entrance to a driveway or walk.

- Place amaryllis in storage for a 2 month rest before re-flowering. Select a cool (40 _ 50 degree) spot and stop all watering. Plan to begin watering again 9 _ 12 weeks before you want it to flower.
- Thanksgiving and Christmas cactus should be placed in an east or north window, watered and fertilized one last time. Start letting them dry out more between waterings. This plus cooler night temperatures will stimulate blossom production.
- Compost has been compared to black gold, and will made quite a difference in your soil. Fall is the ideal time to start a compost pile, since there is such a ready supply of materials—from falling leaves, to the gleanings from our vegetable and flower gardens. Your local extension office has loads of material on composting, from building the compost structure, to how to compost.
- The birds will soon begin their winter migrations so give them a helping hand by providing them with some food for their long journey. You might persuade a few of them to stick around for the winter, if they know they have a reliable food source!

November Gardening Calendar

- Frost is on the pumpkin but the gardening season isn't over yet. Here are some gardening tips from The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture for fall garden maintenance:
 - **Shrubs and trees**
 - It's an ideal time to plant or transplant trees, shrubs and fruit crops. Be sure to mulch newly planted plants with a good 3-4" layer of mulch.
 - Prune back Rose of Sharon, Hydrangeas, and other late season blooming trees and shrubs.
 - If you have the resources, propagate deciduous shrubs such as hydrangea, viburnum and weigela; and evergreens such as ilex, juniperus, and taxus.
 - Fertilize trees and shrubs before the ground freezes so that food is available to plants in early spring.
 - Protect roses for winter.
- **Perennials, annuals, and bulbs**
- Cut chrysanthemum stems and other perennials to 4-5" from the soil once they have begun to die back, but leave ornamental grasses to provide winter interest until spring.
- You can continue to transplant perennials throughout the fall and winter, as long as they remain dormant.
- Cold season annuals such as calendulas, Iceland poppies, primroses, pansies and violas,

snapdragons, ornamental cabbage and kale, can still be planted. The earlier in the month the better. Look for perennials such as carnations, Oriental poppies, and coral bells to plant as well.

- It's the ideal time to plant spring flowering bulbs. Consider planting some of the minor bulbs such as winter aconite, glory of the snow, species tulips, narcissus and grape hyacinths.
- Mulch flower beds with 3-4" of good compost or fine mulch to keep soil temperature stable and prevent winter plant injury from frost heaving. As the compost or fine mulch decomposes, it will enrich your garden soil as well.

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- **Lawn care**

- Its not too late to fertilize your lawn. Use a turf fertilizer and follow label directions. This encourages good root development and helps improve the color of the lawn.
- Keep heavy layers of leaves raked from the lawn. They should be composted. Alternatively, you can just mow over a light layer of leaves, turning them to a mulch which adds important nutrients back to the lawn.

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- **Fruits and veggies**

- As soon as the leaves fall from fruit trees, shade or flowering trees, raspberries and other deciduous plants, they can be sprayed for the first time with a dormant spray. This spraying helps control over wintering insects and diseases. Apply according to label instructions.
- Incorporate fertilizer in the annual and vegetable gardens for next growing season.
- Complete removal of fallen leaves and debris to protect from over wintering of insects and disease organisms
- Cut the tops off your asparagus plants, and add a winter dressing of aged manure to the bed.
- Cover strawberries two inches deep with hay or straw to reduce weeds and increase winter protection.
- Secure your raspberry canes to stakes to protect them from wind whipping.

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- **Indoor plants**

- Give houseplants as much light as possible as lower light days begin.
- Continue to let up on fertilizing indoor plants until spring.
- If possible, provide houseplants with increased humidity as levels decrease due to indoor heating.
- Begin to increase the time between waterings but do not cut back on the amount of water.

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- **Odds and ends**

- Force Bulbs indoors like Narcissus, Hyacinths and Amaryllis for color early in new year; start paperwhites in late November for Christmas flowering.
- Keep feeding the birds.

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December Gardening Calendar

- By early December, gardening is the last thing on most peoples' minds. Nonetheless, here are

some timely plant and garden related tips from the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture:

- **Planning**

- December is a good month to start thinking about landscape improvements for next season. Look through books for ideas. If your plans are elaborate, make an appointment with a landscape professional. Many landscape designers and landscape architects are less rushed this time of year.
- Gardening catalogs should start arriving this month. Start a list of items that you want to purchase for next spring. This is also a good time to review pictures you have taken of your gardens during the past growing season. You can see what you might need to add to your gardens and yard.

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- **Shrubs and trees**

- As long as the ground is not frozen, you can plant trees and shrubs in your landscape. Be sure to mulch transplants and keep them well watered.
- Prune trees and shrubs that are dormant or rejuvenate overgrown shrubs by severely cutting them back. Keep in mind that if you prune spring flowering shrubs, like azaleas and forsythia, you are pruning off their spring flowers.
- Prune evergreen branches to use in holiday decorating.
- Bring Witch Hazel branches indoors. The blossoms are very fragrant. Enjoy cut branches of beautyberry and winterberry holly with their colorful berries.

- **Perennials, annuals, and bulbs**

- Remove heavy layers of stray leaves that may have accumulated around perennials. They can mat down and smother perennials, and they promote rotting.
- Empty the soil from your container gardens. Add the soil to your garden beds or to the compost pile. Clean, sterilize, and store the pots. They will be ready for planting next year.
- Plant paperwhite narcissus bulbs in a shallow container of soil or gravel. They will bloom indoors during the winter months. They need no special cold treatment, only a steady supply of moisture. Keep the container in bright sunlight. You might have to stake or tie flowering stems upright if they grow too floppy. These delicate little flowers send out a fragrance that will permeate your home.

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- **Lawn care**

- When you have finished your last mowing of the year, make sure that your mower is properly stored. Run it until it is out of fuel. Old gas can turn to varnish, and severely damage the engine.
- Get your lawnmower ready for next spring. Be sure to sharpen the blade.

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- **Fruits and veggies**

- Weather permitting, spray fruit trees with lime sulphur and dormant oil to rid trees of overwintering insect eggs and fungus. Thorough coverage is important. Do not spray when temperatures are below freezing.

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- **Indoor gardening**

- Check houseplants frequently to see if they need water. Dry heated air can cause them to lose moisture more rapidly than they do in the spring and summer when indoor air is more humid. However, if you keep your home on the cool side, houseplants may need less frequent watering in the winter months.
- Reduce or eliminate houseplant fertilizing during short winter days unless your plants continue to grow actively. Most plants grow more slowly now because there are so few hours of bright light each day.
- Wash your plants with lukewarm water with a few drops of mild dishwashing liquid added. Dust and grime not only look bad on the leaves, they filter what limited light we have this time of year. They also invite insect pests.
- Inspect houseplant leaves especially the undersides for the fine webbing and pinprick yellow discoloration. These are signs of spider mite infestation. Spider mites are common pests that thrive in warm, dry, indoor conditions. They are very difficult to see without magnification.
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- **Chores and maintenance**
- Continue to keep bird feeders full. Word will get around, and many visitors will come to call during the winter months if you provide a steady supply of suet and seed!
- From an environmental standpoint, spreading sawdust, sand, or cat litter is the best way to deal with icy sidewalks, steps and driveways. If you prefer to use a de_icer, try urea nitrogen fertilizer. It can burn plants if heavily concentrated, but used with restraint it actually helps fertilize grass and shrubs adjacent to treated areas.
- Drain your hoses and put them away so they don't freeze and burst.
- Clean and oil your garden tools for winter storage. Place some sand and oil in a large bucket, then slide your garden tools in and out of the sand. This will do an excellent job of cleaning them, as well as applying a light coat of oil that will prevent rusting.
- December is a good month to replace garden tools that have seen better days. Prices are generally lower this time of year.
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- **Holiday Gardening Tips**
- Fresh greenery around the house is a holiday tradition. Here are some tips from the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture for keeping the halls decked and merry:
- Poinsettias are the favored flowering holiday plant. While red is still the traditional color, pinks, whites, variegated, salmon and yellow varieties abound. Plant sizes vary from standard four- to six-inch pots, to miniatures to tree forms and even hanging baskets. Regardless of the size or variety, poinsettias like bright light and even moisture. With plenty of light, they can keep their colored bracts for many months. All too often, however, poinsettias are used as centerpieces, away from lights. Leaf dropping can be avoided with a little extra light.
- Besides poinsettias, consider purchasing Christmas cactus, kalanchoes, and cyclamens to make your home more festive for the holidays. Be sure to remove any foil wraps on the containers. These can hold water in the pots, which might cause the plants to rot from excess moisture. Make sure these plants are well wrapped before leaving the store for the trip home.
- If you plant amaryllis bulbs now, you can have blooms by Christmas. Amaryllis also come in multiple colors now. After the magnificent bloom is spent, cut off the bloom stalk and place the

pot in a sunny window.

- Keep fresh-cut Christmas trees in a cool, not freezing location. After bringing a tree home, cut 1 to 2" from the base and plunge it into a bucket of tepid water with preservative added to prevent the cut end from sealing over. Don't let the water run dry! When bringing a tree indoors for decorating, allow it to rest in the stand with water in it for several hours to allow the tree to "relax" its branches as it becomes acclimated to indoor warmth. Then decorate.
- Potted or balled Christmas trees should be placed in a cool, not freezing, area until brought indoors for decorating. These trees should not be brought in for extended periods. A day or two indoors before Christmas and a few days after will not harm them. If kept too long indoors, they will break dormancy. After Christmas, take the tree out to a chosen site and plant it. Water well and mulch.
- Don't forget the gardener on your gift list. A gift certificate to a nursery, garden center, gardening magazine or mail order source would be appreciated.