

January Garden Calendar

Vegetables and Fruits

- Pick up and discard fallen fruit before spring arrives.
- As nursery catalogs begin to arrive, look for plants with improved insect and disease resistance.
- Order fruit trees

Flowers

- Peruse seed catalogs and prepare your seed order.
- Things you can start: For spring flowers, get unplanted spring bulbs in the ground as soon as possible.
- Start seeds throughout the winter, depending on growing requirements.
- Water fall planted perennials to prevent dry soil conditions.
- Watch for signs of frost heaving and cover tender roots.
- Replace mulch layers.
- Check bulbs in storage for rot and decay. Discard damaged ones.
- Curl up with a good book and learn more about gardening.

Lawns

- Avoid walking on frozen lawns. It may injure the grass.
- Rake fallen leaves that pile up on the lawn to prevent suffocation of grass.
- Scatter snow instead of piling it up on the lawn next to drives and walks.

Trees and Shrubs

- Snow and ice on limbs:
 - Gently brush heavy snow from tree and shrub limbs to reduce damage.
 - Allow ice to melt naturally from limbs. Do not use water to melt the ice or attempt to knock it off.
- Pruning:
 - Prune storm damaged limbs quickly to reduce damage and prevent tearing of the bark.
 - Avoid the temptation to prune on warm winter day. You'll prevent further damage.
 - Bring twigs of flowering trees and shrubs indoors to force blossoms.
 - Water fall planted trees and shrubs when soil is dry but not frozen.
 - Watch out for rabbit damage to the bark of trees and shrubs.

Miscellaneous

- Clean and repair garden tools during the winter.
- Sand and seal tool handles to prevent splinters. Apply brightly colored paint to handles. It makes them easier to spot in the garden.
- Keep bird feeders and water supplies filled for the feathered friends.
- Evaluate the garden and make notes to assist in next year's planning.
- Take photos of the garden and analyze for year-round interest.