



January



<p>Tree Planting continues to head the list of important gardening jobs for January. A wide planting hole (3 times the size of the root ball) ensures successful planting with trees in most cases. Generally no amendment is necessary. Small trees work well in foundation plantings. Soil conditioner or compost is used to amend clay soils when planting container grown plants (Add a 3 inch layer of conditioner or compost and mix in the soil planting hole.)</p>	<p>Winter watering —Keep in mind that plants, especially newly set plants, need water during winter months. A cold, dry wind is very damaging to plants because it removes moisture from the soil and the plant tissues. The only way to know when a plant needs water is by checking the actual condition of the soil in which it is growing. When in doubt, scrape off a few inches of the topsoil. If it is dry, supplemental watering is needed. Mulches, drip irrigation and soaker hoses help ease the task of watering.</p>		<p>Check bulbs in storage—Often dahlia tubers and gladiolus corms are attacked by rot in storage. Throw out any with rot. Sulfur and fungicides may be used during storage.</p>	
<p>Mulch—Strawberry beds, bulbs, and perennials need mulching for winter protection. Wheat straw, pine needles or other mulch should be added now if not already used. Pine needles and wheat straw work best for strawberries and should be removed when the blooms begin to appear.</p>	<p>Tree wound paints are virtually useless in sealing pruning cuts. The effects are mostly cosmetic. If you feel better painting a cut, by all means do it. When pruning large limbs at the trunk make the cut outside the branch collar (a ring of rough tissue at the point of branch attachment). All trees can be pruned in the dormant season.</p>	<p>Fertilize spring flowering bulbs when 1 inch of growth is seen above ground.</p> 	<p>Put garden plans down on paper. Start a garden journal. As you walk the yard, note what needs to be trimmed or moved. Lay out beds using a garden hose to eliminate mowing difficulties.</p>	
<p>Gardening Catalogues are good gifts. Give old gardening catalogs to church or school. They are of great use for Easter and spring art works.</p>	<p>Over-wintering insect populations can be reduced by turning the soil and exposing the slumbering plant eaters to the freezing nights.</p>	<p>Test old seed by placing 10 seeds on a moist paper towel. Roll up the towel and put in a zip lock plastic bag. Keep warm. Check in a week and see what percent has germinated.</p>	<p>Wood ash left over from cozy fires can be used as a soil amendment on the lawn and garden. This ash can be sprinkled on bulb beds, garden plots, and the lawn. Use only on non acid-loving plants. Only 1 cup per 100 square feet of area can be added. Before adding again, take a soil test.</p>	<p>Send soil samples to NCDA, Agronomic Laboratory now to avoid spring rush. Soil sample boxes and information sheets may be picked up at the local Cooperative Extension Office.</p>
<p>Keep compost pile turned and watered weekly. Cover to prevent water logging if necessary.</p>	<p>Contact your Extension Agent to see what spring gardening classes are scheduled.</p>	 <p>Feed and water the birds during cold weather. Birds are the gardener's friend.</p>	<p>Early vegetables - On a warm day prepare a spot in the vegetable garden for early vegetables. Soil may be too wet to work come planting time. Construct raised beds and fill with a soil mixture (1 part compost and 1 part garden soil).</p>	

January (continued)

<p>Lawns - Keep fallen leaves from collecting on your lawn.</p>	<p>Prune - Broken and undesired limbs from shade trees and shrubs.</p>	<p>Propagation - Hardwood cuttings of many landscape plants such as Crape Myrtle, Flowering Quince, Forsythia, Hydrangea, Juniper, Spirea, and Weigelia can be taken this month.</p>	<p>Start indoors the following plants from seed - onions, asparagus, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, collards, hardy herbs, annuals, biennials and perennials. After germination thin plants keeping the most vigorously growing ones. Compare your planting time to the time it takes to grow transplants to estimate when each needs to be started.</p>		
<p>Houseplants - The four major causes of houseplant deaths during the winter months are: over-fertilizing, over-watering, under-watering, and improper light. Do not fertilize houseplants in the wintertime. Let your plants go dormant (rest), a period of reduced growth, so that they will be ready for vigorous growth in the spring months. For supplemental lighting use a shop light fitted with one cool-white and one warm-white bulb. When watering, use tap water and let warm to room temperature before pouring on cold sensitive plants. The following houseplants adapt well to warm indoor conditions:</p> <p>A. Jade Plant B. Scheffelera C. Wax Plant D. Crown of Thorns E. Pothos F. Kalanchoe</p>			<p>Spray roses with lime-sulfur this month to control insects and diseases.</p>	<p>Use that old Christmas tree and mantel greenery. Prop the tree in a corner of the yard and decorate it with popcorn and cranberry garland, leftover fruit, holiday fruitcake, or bread. The animals will love the sheltered dining atmosphere. Cut boughs and needles can insulate perennial and bulb beds against severe cold. Put the tree stump in the firewood pile.</p>	

NOTES:

February



<p>Over grown plantings that tend to become bare at the base cannot be helped by tip or top pruning. These plants must be cut back near the ground to produce new growth down low. Old established plants of Burford Holly, Cleyera, Japanese Holly, Ligustrum, and similar broad-leaved evergreens can be cut back 15 - 24 inches from the ground in the dormant season. February and early March are good times for severe pruning. Conifers (such as Arborvitae, Pfitzer Juniper, etc.) cannot be as heavily pruned as can broad-leaved evergreens. Shear conifers.</p>	<p>Winter pruning jobs include trimming of tree branches where necessary, pruning out diseased and dead wood from shrubs and climbing roses, and the annual pruning of old flowered wood from deciduous flowering shrubs — those that bloomed after midsummer. Don't prune early-flowering shrubs until after they have bloomed.</p>	 <p>Order flowers for your significant other for Valentine's Day!</p>	<p>Gather branches for forced flowering in the house from pussy willow, forsythia, dogwood, plum, flowering quince, and Sweet-Breath-Of-Spring.</p>	
<p>Cut a few tall stalks of Nandina and Mahonia to the ground to induce compactness.</p>	<p>Prune boxwood in early February before new growth begins.</p>	<p>Work on your garden journal by adding sowing and planting dates. This will help you avoid mistakes and to remember what you did when a crop does well or perhaps not so well. Also aids in knowing where to rotate vegetable crops.</p>	<p>Save plastic milk jugs to use as covers for baby plants; cut off the bottoms. Recycle mini-blinds to use as garden labels. Label with permanent markers.</p>	 <p>Coat your snow shovel with a non-stick cooking spray to help the snow slide right off when shoveling.</p>
<p>Fertilize emerging spring flowering bulbs.</p>	<p>Study seed catalogs early this year and place order before the spring rush. Check local catalogs for regional plants.</p>	<p>Mow liriope (monkey grass) and mondo grass to remove wind burned foliage.</p>	<p>Control wild garlic with 2,4-D amine or Image spray.</p>	<p>Mulch - This is a good time to replenish mulch in foundation plantings and rose beds.</p>
<p>Apply a dormant oil spray to fruit trees and ornamentals for control of over wintering insects and eggs. (Do not apply if temperatures are below 40 degrees). Do not apply to broad-leaf evergreens when freezing temperatures are expected.</p>	<p>Prune rose bushes. Thin to 3 - 5 good strong canes and shorten canes to 15 inches. Prune climbers after they flower in early summer.</p>	<p>Start plants from seeds early in the month. Check list from January or add new ones. Sow indoors under light. Add 14-16 hours of artificial light.</p>	<p>Service power equipment Change the oil, replace filters, belts, and spark plugs, sharpen or replace blades of mowers.</p>	

February (continued)

<p>Calcium chloride, sand, or urea fertilizer can serve as de-icing salt on walks or patios.</p>	<p>Strawberries should be planted in February or March. If you already have a strawberry patch, pull back the mulch from blooming plants at the end of the month.</p>	<p>Prune back pampas grass to within 20 inches (or recommended rate for other grasses) now that the leaves are dormant. Late pruning could injure new emerging leaves. Ornamental grasses can be divided now.</p>	<p>Prune fruit trees. Strive to keep the height down and the tree open for good light penetration. Peach diseases are lessened when trees are pruned in late February</p>	<p>Vegetables - English peas, onions, Irish potatoes, radishes, rutabagas, spinach, turnips, beets, and carrots may be planted outdoors when soil is dry enough to work.</p>
<p>Lawn - Apply 10 pounds per 1000 square feet of 10-10-10 fertilizer the last of the month to cool-season grasses (fescue) or follow soil test recommendation.</p>	<p>Blueberries should be pruned now. Take out all diseased and damaged canes. To control height, cut back tall, vigorous shoots to force lower-level branching.</p>	<p>Check your corms, tubers, and roots stored last fall and discard those that are decaying. If decay is severe, move plant parts to a drier place. If roots and tubers show signs of shriveling they are too dry, so slightly moisten the material in which they are stored. Bulbs of lilies and caladiums can be potted for an early start in the garden.</p>		<p>Herbs - Sow basil, chives, parsley, sage, summer savory and sweet marjoram indoors. To encourage parsley seeds to sprout rapidly, soften the seeds indoors by soaking them overnight in warm water.</p>
<p>Insects - Begin looking for pests, particularly aphids and cutworms that like to chew on fresh foliage.</p>	<p>Grape vines are subject to winter injury if pruned too early. Prune after most of the severe cold has passed, but before they leaf out. Make a grape vine wreath with the trimmings.</p>			

NOTES:

March





<p>Lilacs grow best in full sun and a well-drained soil. Fertilize with one cup of 8-8-8 fertilizer and 3 cups of agriculture lime placed underneath the foliage in the drip line every 3 years. The Persian and Korean lilacs are preferred over common lilacs in our area.</p>	<p>Prune spring flowering shrubs - Just as flowers begin to fade is the best time to prune spring flowering shrubs, such as spirea, flowering quince, azaleas, viburnums, and forsythia.</p>	<p>Birdhouses (including Martin and Bluebird) can go up by mid-March. Also clean out old nests and repair birdhouses as well as cleaning the birdbath and feeder.</p> 	<p>Care of shade trees (1) Never disturb the root system, any digging or hoeing which damages roots can slow tree growth; (2) keep grass away from the tree trunk for the first few years to reduce the competition for nutrients and water. The mulched area should extend to the tree's drip line. Avoid mulches around the base of the tree trunk.</p>	<p>Divide established perennials that are overgrown. This is an easy way to enlarge your garden without having to purchase more plants. Two spading forks can be used to separate clumps of overgrown perennials. Or just digging the whole plant up and cutting it with a landscaping shovel will work.</p>
<p>Apply pre-emergent herbicides to shrub beds by mid-March. Use these chemicals before mulching the beds and follow the label recommendations.</p>	<p>Repot houseplants - To keep potted plants healthy they should be repotted each spring, scrub an old pot with soap and water and dip in a 10% Chlorine solution before reusing and repot in commercial potting mix. Do not fertilize the first month after repotting.</p>	<p>For a low maintenance landscape, plant areas of dense shade with ground cover (examples are Pachysandra, periwinkle, ajuga, lamium ivy, and sweet woodruff) instead of grass. Ground covers are also especially useful in an area susceptible to erosion.</p>	<p>Voles can ruin prize ornamentals by chewing bark on trunks and roots of trees and shrubs. Populations build up during the late winter months. To control voles use snap traps baited with a piece of apple. Hardware cloth wire mesh can be wrapped around the lower trunks of specimen plants for protection. Some baits are approved for chemical control. Call your extension office for the most current recommendations on animal control methods.</p>	
<p>Pre-emergent weed control for turf - As a general rule of thumb, crabgrass preventers should be applied while the forsythia is in bloom. (March or April)</p>	<p>Plant cool season vegetables beets, carrots, Swiss chard, lettuce, greens, Irish Potatoes, onion sets, radishes, spinach.</p>	<p>Fertilize and lime vegetable garden before planting.</p>	<p>Biennials such as pansy, hollyhock, canterberry bell, forget-me-not, wallflower, English daisy, and foxglove may be planted for spring bloom provided you purchase well-established plants.</p>	<p>Ivy - Cut back old stands of ivy to 3 inches of height.</p>
<p>Plant a tree for Arbor Day.</p>	 <p>Tune up garden equipment if not done in January.</p>	<p>Tune up yourself. A regular regimen of exercise before the garden season will prevent back injuries.</p>	<p>Turn a 5-gallon bucket into a tool holder/garden basket by tying a carpenter's tool pouch to the outside.</p>	<p>Use frozen juice concentrate containers, paper towel inner rolls cut into 3-inch rings to protect seedlings from cutworms.</p>

March (continued)

<p>Prune off faded spring flower blooms but leave foliage undisturbed (daffodils).</p>	<p>Fertilize boxwoods once each year with 1/4 cup of 10-10-10 fertilizer per plant.</p>	<p>Use polyester plant covers or bed sheets for frost protection in the garden if needed.</p>	<p>Fertilize trees and shrubs - Now's an excellent time to apply fertilizer as new growth begins. Use a special nursery fertilizer for each type of plant or a complete fertilizer such as 10-10-10.</p>	
<p>Garden Journal -Work a lot on your garden journal this month. Document your observations, thoughts, and plans for the future. In your journal list all plants in your garden as you observe or care for them throughout the year. Include the names of seed companies, plant names, and varieties, planting date and harvest time.</p>				

Notes:

April




<p>Perennial plants should be set out this month so they may become established before hot weather sets in. Prepare beds using leaf compost or pine bark (2 inches added) incorporating into the top 6 inches of the soil. Incorporate super phosphate before planting. Get surplus plants from your friends and neighbors they have divided and taken out of their garden and set them out now.</p> 	<p>Summer bulbs can be planted in late April. This covers dahlias, gladiolus, tuberroses, fancy-leafed caladiums, elephant ears, and cannas. Start digging and storing early flowering bulbs such as ranunculus and anemones as their foliage begins to yellow.</p>	<p>Brown rot of peaches and fire blight of apples and pears are common diseases this time of year. Sprays should be applied during bloom for fire blight and start a regular spray schedule for brown rot.</p>	<p>Spot anthracnose of dogwoods begins to show up now. A pre and post bloom fungicide spraying is recommended if you have had the disease in past years.</p> 	
<p>Spray roses every 7 - 10 days for black spot until frost, beginning with the onset of new growth and warm weather.</p>	<p>Azaleas and camellias do best with 2 light fertilizer applications using an acid type fertilizer following spring bloom. Regular pruning, mulching and irrigation are a must to keep these plants flowering well.</p>	 <p>Slug hotel - Control slugs and snails using carbaryl and metaldehyde baits placed in empty plastic containers. Keep the lid on and cut out 3/4 inch holes in the sides.</p>	<p>Pea Trellis - Make a trellis from a single stout wooden pole set firmly in the ground. Attach support strings three-quarters of the way around to form a tepee framework leaving opening for easy harvest. Plant edible-pod peas near string ends.</p>	<p>Spray red tip photinia with a general fungicide for leaf spot problems; wooden homes and wooden lawn furniture with insecticide for carpenter bees; and iris beds with insecticide for borers; and azaleas with insecticide for lace bugs.</p>
<p>Keep writing in your garden journal</p> 	<p>As you set out young vegetable plants cover them with the top half of milk jugs to protect them from too much sun and windburn.</p>	<p>Transplant azaleas so you can match and group by color. They like some shade.</p>	<p>Mow fescue lawns at 2 ½ to 3-inch height. Mowing higher will help to control weeds and crabgrass. Summer grass lawns (Zoysia/bermuda) should be mowed at ½ to 1 ½ inch height. Fertilize Zoysia grass at this time.</p>	<p>Stake growing peonies. Don't worry about the ants.</p>

April (continued)

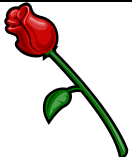

<p>Watch the weather for late frost and protect plants if possible.</p>	<p>Vegetables - Plant beans, beets, carrots, corn, cucumbers, squash, and tomatoes.</p>	<p>Plant warm season grasses like Bermuda grass, Centipede and Zoysia this month.</p>	<p>Both lavender and sage can be cut back in this month as new growth appears. In both cases do not cut below the point of new buds on the stems. This would be 6 - 8 inches for lavender above the ground and lower for sage.</p>	<p>After the last expected freeze set out transplants of herbs you started indoors.</p>
<p>Divide chives, thyme, mint and tarragon when new growth emerges. Propagate rosemary and thyme by layering.</p>				

Notes:




May

<p>Prepare plants now for dry weather - Dryness can be guarded against by using a thin layer of mulch (2-3 inches) of pine straw, shredded leaves, wood chips or bark to conserve water in the soil for use by the plant. Place mulch around base of plant.</p>	<p>Herbicide can be used to control weeds prior to planting flowers. Roundup is a common weed killer that can be used. Allow 30 days prior to planting the flowers.</p>	<p>Frost sensitive bedding plants can be safely planted the first week of May. Be careful about the amount of fertilizer used at planting time. One pound of complete fertilizer (e.g. 10-10-10) per 100 square feet.</p>	<p>Pinch plants for flowers - Pinch back mums, zinnias, salvia (red sage), cockscomb (celosia), petunias, marigolds, and snapdragons to slow down top growth, encourage lateral branching and more blooms. Use your index finger and thumbnail to break out the lead growth at the tip of the plant.</p>	<p>Divide Cannas. Clumps of cannas should be divided every three or four years to encourage flowering. Set divided root sections 5-6 inches deep, 15 inches apart.</p>
<p>Fertilize crape myrtles and rose of sharon with one cup of 10-10-10 per plant to get abundant summer bloom throughout the summer months; additional application may be needed in June. Spray this month for aphids if seen. If mildew occurs apply fungicide.</p>	<p>Azalea leaf gall begins to show up now. Swollen leaves covered with a white powdery material may be seen. It is not too destructive, just pick off the leaves and trash them to prevent spread of the leaf gall.</p>	<p>Hang up the hummingbird feeders.</p> 	<p>Cutting a rose - The removal of too much wood and foliage can seriously weaken your roses, especially during the first year. Leave 2 - 3 well-developed leaves between the cut and the main stem. A mixture of half sprite and half water makes a good floral preservative in your vase.</p>	<p>Give houseplants a vacation - Potted plants grown indoors over winter can become a part of the garden setting now. All types of indoor plants, including your collection of foliage plants, may be placed in the shady garden border, mostly among shrubs. Let plants spend the summer outdoors to thrive in nature's rains and fresh air. Control insect pests as needed.</p>
<p>Prune wisteria now and throughout the summer to control size and shape. Wisteria blooms on old growth and requires several years to reach flowering size. Make them bloom: To promote flowering the following spring, in June or early July, prune back vigorous shoots to 3 to 4 buds. Root prune by use of a sharp spade inserted vertically into the ground 6 to 8 inches, 24 to 30 inches from the base of the vine, then fertilize with super phosphate. Feed also in late fall with super phosphate.</p>			<p>Check for borers on deodar cedars- Borers on these trees can weaken the tree and make it more susceptible to winter injury. Spray with the Extension recommended chemical control.</p>	
<p>Check with local garden shops for innovations in drip irrigation. A drip system with timer can be a great labor-saver when dry weather arrives.</p>	<p>Side dress (fertilize) vegetables 6 weeks after planting.</p> 	<p>Spray red tip photinia with fungicide if leaf spot is observed.</p>	<p>Plant tender vegetables and annuals - tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, okra, melons, marigolds, zinnias, etc.</p>	<p>Do not cut back spring foliage until it turns yellow.</p> 

June



<p>Planting container-grown plants - Unless the container is one of the plantable types, always remove the plant from the container. For the plantable container remove the container if the plant roots have not begun to push through. If roots are pushing through then tear the upper 2 inches or so of the rim off and follow the instructions for planting any container plant.</p>	<p>Remove flower seeds - As you make the rounds of your garden, clip away faded flowers of plants that make seed including crape myrtle and rhododendron to help develop more flower buds for next season's bloom.</p>	<p>Dig flower bulbs - As soon as foliage dies down, dig tulips, Dutch iris, and other hardy bulbs. Divide and replant bulbs immediately, or store in a cool place and plant them in the fall. It isn't necessary to dig them up each year, but at least take them up and divide often enough to keep them from becoming root bound.</p>	<p>Make a critical survey of your landscape now that deciduous trees and shrubs are in leaf. Note if you have too much or too little in the way of plantings. Late this fall or during the winter months you can add to or subtract from plantings. Remove dead and dying wood from trees at this time.</p>	
<p>Summer pruning - For bushy well-shaped plants that bloom profusely, prune shrubs as they grow. Prune by cutting or pinching out growing tips to make vigorous new shoots from several branches. In June, summer prune abelia, forsythia, privets, mock orange, deutzia, althea, bush honeysuckle, weigelia, and euonymus.</p>	 <p>Prune climbing roses after they bloom and fertilize at that time.</p>	<p>Warm season sod replacement - Now is the time to replace any warm season turf that has suffered disease or cold damage. Sod can be purchased in rolls or square pieces. Cut the damaged area out with a shovel and lay the new sod in the hole. Water the sod heavily one time. Then keep the sod moist until the root system take hold and can support itself.</p>	<p>Top dress warm season turf with about 1 pound of nitrogen per 1000 square feet. The extra nitrogen will help the turf grow during the optimum growing months of June, July, and August.</p>	 <p>Use golf tees to find or mark location of spring bulbs or dormant plants.</p>
<p>Prune white pine and narrow leaf evergreens like Juniper and Arborvitae</p>	<p>Spray non-selective herbicides on woody weeds such as poison ivy, honeysuckle, and kudzu. Be careful not to spray on or near desired plants.</p>	<p>Watch for dark brown spots on tomato leaves. Control with fungicide.</p>	<p>Continue spraying fruit trees and bunch grapes on a regular basis with fungicide to control rots. Spray with insecticides if needed. If only a few trees, use a fruit tree combination spray.</p>	<p>Harvest herbs - The best time to harvest most herbs is just before flowering when the leaves contain the maximum essential oils.</p>
<p>Dig onions and garlic when about half the tops begin to turn yellow and fall over. Brush the soil off then cure them in a dark, warm (80-85NF) well ventilated space for two to three weeks. Store them in a mesh bag in a dry, dark, cool place.</p>	<p>Now's the time to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Snap off growing tips of your chrysanthemum plants. They'll branch and bloom profusely. Also side dress with 10-20-20 fertilizer at a rate of 1 cup per 100 square feet. B. Feed nandinas with a complete fertilizer (10-10-10) so their bright berries will last through winter C. Encircle lilacs with a complete fertilizer, rake it in and water thoroughly (1/4 cup). D. Stake and tie brittle, new clematis stalks. Prune clematis after they bloom. E. Stake dahlias when you plant them so they'll have support later and will not be damaged by staking after plants have grown. F. Keep old flower blooms cut from annuals. This enables plants to produce more blooms for a longer period. G. Start stem cuttings of geraniums, leaf cuttings of succulents to be potted and used as houseplants over winter. H. Mulch azaleas, gardenias and camellias with 2-3 inches of compost. I. Transplant seedlings of annuals such as marigolds and zinnias if the stands are too thick. Give all annuals plenty of space to develop by thinning and transplanting. 			

July

<p>Weed in the cool-cool-cool of the evening - If weeds have grown so large that pulling them will disturb roots of nearby plants, do the weeding in late afternoon or in cloudy weather. By doing so, you give the nearby injured or disturbed plants time to repair the damage before they face the hot summer sun. Weeding after a rain helps the removal to be easier.</p>		<p>Shade trees may need more water if they are in declining health. Most of the water should be placed at the outer reaches of the root system where the small root hairs that take up the soil moisture are located. When you water a tree, water deeply - apply sufficient water so the soil is quite moist to a depth of at least one foot.</p>		<p>Bagworms on evergreens - Hand pick the bags or use Dipel spray if they are still moving on the plant.</p>
<p>Azaleas, camellia and holly can be propagated by cuttings now.</p>	<p>Give landscape plants a second or last feeding of fertilizer to increase size. Do not fertilize trees and shrubs after July.</p>	 <p>Stop pinching Chrysanthemums by mid-July.</p>	<p>Remember to change directions when mowing lawn to have a more even cut.</p>	<p>Pinch off old bloom heads of rhododendron. Remove faded flowers from Crape Myrtle and perennials to encourage second flowering.</p>
<p>Stake tall flowers or vegetables.</p>	<p>Deadhead annuals. Pick off dead blooms. Where possible pinch to a node on the stem.</p>	<p>Watch for white flies - Control with yellow sticky traps, insecticidal soap, or summer oil. Repeat applications weekly if needed.</p>	<p>Prune bleeder trees such as maple, dogwood, birch and elm. Prune hedges as needed.</p>	<p>Remove fruiting canes of raspberry and blackberry plants after harvest is over.</p>
<p>Take soil samples from your lawn areas for testing. Soil boxes and information sheets can be obtained from the local Cooperative Extension Office.</p>	<p>Do not prune spring flowering shrubs now.</p>	<p>Check for caterpillars on azaleas, cherry, and pecan trees. Spray with insecticide if needed.</p> 	<p>Cut basil, mint, and oregano to keep them compact and to keep these herbs from blooming and going to seed.</p>	

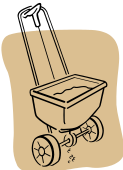

Notes:

August

<p>Watering - Remember to give a thorough soaking when you water. Frequent sprinklings can do more harm than good. You want to encourage the growth of a deep root system. Early mornings is the best time to water so foliage will dry off quickly and not encourage disease.</p>	<p>Mulching of shrubs and young trees can be very important in hot dry weather. Shallow roots are protected from the sun, moisture is conserved and weeds and grasses are controlled with good mulch. A 3 - 4 inch layer of pine needles, oak leaves, leaf mold, or compost will help grow strong, healthy plants.</p>	<p>Transplant iris and daylily in August or September. By doing so now, new transplants will have time to become well established before cold weather.</p>	<p>Fall conditioning is a term gardeners are beginning to hear. It involves the use of high potash and phosphate fertilizers (no Nitrogen) to slow down growth and harden plants for winter.</p>	<p>Spray azaleas in late August for lace bug control. Two sprays are needed now 10 days apart and again in April.</p>
<p>Plant fall vegetables - Examples: beets, cabbage, greens, lettuce, and broccoli.</p>	<p>Fertilize warm season grasses for last time.</p>	<p>Fertilize strawberry patch with nitrogen fertilizer.</p> 	<p>Plant pansy seeds in flats for landscaping in September.</p>	<p>Trim red tip photinia for fall color.</p>
<p>Keep an eye out for oak worms and sawfly larvae. Although foliage may be stripped from shade trees it is not injurious when done in late summer.</p>	<p>Apply grub control this month to lawns. Check with the Extension Office for recommended control methods.</p>	<p>Insects - Look for different types of insects in large populations the next two months and apply control if needed.</p>		<p>Gather bundles of each type of herb and spread on cheesecloth or hang upside down in a warm, dark, dry place to preserve.</p>


Notes:

September

<p>Lawn seeding - September is the optimum time to start seeding and renovating fescue lawns. Fertilize lawns in September, November, and February for good root growth. Liming in the fall is a must for a good lawn. Follow a soil test recommendation.</p> 		<p>Autumn Color Ideas - Ginkgo trees are becoming an important source of brilliant yellow color. Among other good choices for foliage color from trees are: Sweet gum, Red Maple, Southern Sugar Maple, Japanese Maple, Sourwood, and Crape Myrtle. As autumn merges into winter, you'll want to accent the landscape scene with berry color from such plants as pyracantha, nandina, viburnum, beautyberry, and many of the holly group. Don't forget the brilliant red foliage of burning bush, or rabbiteye blueberry.</p>		<p>Bulb planting - If you are planning spring color from bulbs, now's the time to order bulbs for late October and November plantings. For best landscape effect, plant groups of bulbs in between shrubs, or scatter bulbs in wooded areas to naturalize them. Avoid planting in a straight line.</p>
<p>Fruit Trees - Many well-planned landscapes include fruit trees as seasonal accent to the front or side yard. A flowering pear, peach, apple, crabapple, or cherry is every bit as showy as a flowering dogwood in the spring.</p>	<p>Garden Compost- Of continuing importance is the gardening practice of composting leaves and other garden refuse. Never burn or throw them away.</p>	<p>Controlling Annual Bluegrass and Chickweed is made simple by using pre-emergent herbicides applied in mid-September in the lawn and shrub plantings.</p>	<p>Overseed warm season grasses with rye grass in late September for fall and spring green color.</p>	 <p>Plant pansies and flowering kale/cabbage for fall color.</p>
<p>Late in the month - divide peonies. Cover their buds with 2 inches of soil, then mulch</p>	<p>Continue spraying roses.</p>	<p>Collect dry seedpods, unusual leaves, rose hips, etc. for dry arrangements. Air-dry these materials in a cool, dry, dark location.</p>	<p>Set out landscape plants this month particularly perennials. Transplant any evergreen trees and shrubs that need moving this month.</p>	<p>Harvest luffa gourds when they begin to turn brown, feel light and dry and rattle when shaken.</p>
<p>Start drying herbs such as basil, oregano, sage, and others you have been using fresh all summer. You can harvest annuals such as basil till frost.</p>				

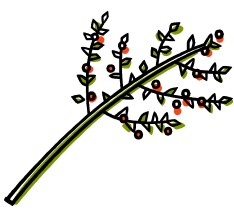
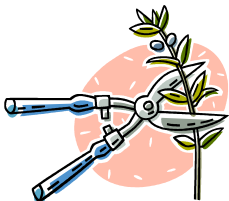
Notes:

October

<p>Time to plant evergreen trees and shrubs- Fall is a good time to plant and transplant evergreen trees and shrubs. This transplant season extends through the winter months. In selecting evergreens, be certain to allow space for maturity. A common mistake is in placing a large or fast growing evergreen in a position where there is not enough room for full height and spread.</p>		<p>Putting the Garden to Bed For The Winter - Prevent many of next year's insect and disease problems by thoroughly cleaning debris out of the garden. Pull out all annuals that have completed their life cycle. Cut way all tops of perennials. Remove debris from beneath all plants including shrubs. Get your soil tested now. A nematode assay may be useful to vegetable gardens if suspect.</p>		<p>Flowering quince (Japanese Quince) - Bears fruit, which can be made into preserves.</p>
<p>Pruning - It is always the right time to prune out deadwood or diseased wood from shrubs, roses, and shade trees. To insure quick healing never cut beyond the bark ridge.</p>	<p>Bearded Iris - For success, have good drainage, good soil, and sunshine, clean cultivation and frequent resetting for larger and finer blooms.</p>	<p>Houseplants - Bring houseplants indoors when temperatures dip below 50 degrees. Give them a good bath in soapy water or spray with insecticidal soap.</p>	 <p>Set poinsettia in a dark place for blooms by Christmas.</p>	<p>Sunflowers should be harvested when back of heads are yellow. Leave a foot of stem on each head and hang to dry in a bird/insect free spot.</p>
<p>Sow seeds of hardy annuals (larkspur, poppy, cornflower, etc.) Where they are to bloom.</p>	<p>October is a perfect month to get construction done. Build walkways, arbors, terraces, and fencing during the fine weather.</p>	<p>Fertilize spring flowering bulbs - Use a complete fertilizer (10-10-10) at rate of 1 cup per 100 square feet.</p>	<p>Divide hostas and peonies if needed and cover with mulch.</p>	<p>Cover water gardens with netting to keep leaves from falling in pond and clogging the filter system.</p>
<p>Divide chives, thyme, mint, and tarragon. Chives, coriander, dill and parsley can be direct sown in the fall. Plant garlic cloves now to have harvest in late summer. Chives and parsley taste better than ever in cool weather.</p>				




Notes:

November

<p>Select and plant trees and shrubs for a permanent home landscape. Don't scatter plantings at random; it's much better to have a planting guide. A simple map locating trees, shrubs and yard features will do a thorough site analysis. Spend some time browsing in reference books for landscaping ideas. You will find many excellent gardening books in the library. Consider a planting plan from a professional landscape designer.</p>	<p>When you prune keep in mind that shearing destroys the natural shape of many shrubs. To reduce size and produce more compact growth, cut out undesirable limbs from inside the plant. Do not cut all limbs at the same height.</p>		<p>After the first killing frost. It is time to mulch shrubs, perennials and trees for winter protection. Winter mulch should not be heavy or dense.</p>
<p>Cool days are excellent times for landscape construction projects like decks, walks, and fences. Avoid soil contact with untreated wood.</p>	<p>Apply lime to vegetable garden if needed.</p>	<p>Winterize your mower by first disconnecting the spark plug wire. Drain out all the gasoline and oil, and replace the old with fresh oil. Spray paint under the clean deck to prevent rust. Remove and clean the air filter. Pull the spark plug before storing for the winter. Check for carbon build-up and replace if needed. Gasoline stabilizer is available for stored equipment.</p>	<p>Keep your shears and loppers in good working order. Wipe them with a rag dipped in paint thinner to remove sticky resins. Sharpen and oil thoroughly.</p>
<p>Collect unusual twigs for dry arrangements.</p> 	<p>Help Landscape Plants Escape Cold Damage:</p> <p>A. In order to aid plants in escaping cold damage, it is wise to keep in mind that a healthy well-fed plant will stand the coldest weather. Plants should enter winter free of diseases.</p> <p>B. Be sure not to feed plants too late in the season, as this often forces tender growth that is subject to winterkill. Never fertilize with quickly available nitrogen in late summer.</p> <p>C. Select varieties that are hardy to Forsyth County.</p> <p>D. Protect plants from prevailing cold winds. A fence or tall evergreen hedge of trees or shrubs gives a good protection to tender landscape plants.</p> <p>E. Use hose sections on guy wires of newly planted trees, so the wire will not damage the trunks in windy weather.</p> <p>F. During severe freezes, plants that freeze and thaw slowly will be damaged the least, thus the north side of a building with lots of shade is the best for tender plants. Consider a windscreen of burlap or cheesecloth for tender plants.</p>		

Notes:

December

<p>Weed out “Weed” Trees and Shrubs - “Weed” trees (unwanted seedlings) and shrubs are often a serious menace to shrub plantings. Among them are seedling oak, maple, cherry, and ligustrum. These often grow unnoticed until they have crowded valuable shrubs. Pull or dig such from all plantings.</p>	<p>Treat Holiday Greens - Anti-desiccants used to prevent cold damage to shrubs, also are useful in preventing the quick drying of cut greens used in Christmas decorations. Any greens that are not used with their stems in water (such as wreaths, garlands, swags) will last longer if they are sprayed with one of the anti-desiccants.</p>	<p>Late Fall Watering of Evergreens - Only a short time need be spent in preparing deciduous and evergreen plants to withstand winter damage. The havoc reaped from frozen ground, winter winds and burning sun, can be your greatest problem in preventing a healthy and trouble free landscape next year. Plants are winterkilled or damaged due to lack of water at the root level. Dead plants in early spring are obvious symptoms of winter injury. Winter sun and wind often cause brown leaves or large dead area in evergreens such as junipers and yews, as well as rhododendrons and other broad-leaved evergreens. Evergreens should be well watered before the ground has frozen. This helps them withstand the undesirable growing conditions of drought and water shortages during the winter months.</p>	<p>Clean bird feeders annually with hot sudsy water to prevent the spread of wild bird diseases.</p> 
<p>As chrysanthemums die back, prune them to ground level.</p>	<p>Keep leaves from collecting on your lawn.</p>		<p>Mulch strawberry beds for winter protection.</p>
 <p>Recycle Christmas Trees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The city pickup will chip up the trees. B. Use boughs to protect tender plants. C. Use the trees for a bird feeder. D. The trunks can serve as garden stakes for tomatoes or beans. 	<p>If you buy your Christmas tree early you can reduce the risk of a fire hazard in the home by following these suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Keep the tree in a shady location outdoors in an unheated room till you use it. B. Re-cut the butt of the tree making a diagonal cut at a 45-degree angle. C. Place the butt in a container of water and maintain the water level until bringing indoors for decorating. While indoors, keep watered at all times. 		

Notes:

We are pleased to offer this Guide of Month By Month Landscape Gardening. For more information on the NC Cooperative Extension Service, Forsyth County Center, information on horticulture, or educational programs offered by our staff, contact us at:

<http://forsyth.ces.ncsu.edu/>

or

www.forsyth.cc

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