December Garden Calendar

Plants in Flower
- Japonica Camellia

Plants with Colorful Berries
- American Beautyberry, Burford Holly, Chinese Holly, Foster Holly, Nellie R. Stevens Holly, Nandina and Pyracantha

Fertilizing
- None needed on plants outside.
- Use wood ashes as a replacement for limestone. (Rule of thumb: 3 lbs of wood ashes = 1 lb of ground limestone.)
- Fertilize house plants once this month.

Planting
- Plant trees and shrubs this month as long as the ground in not frozen.

Pruning
- Prune berry producing plants if berries are desired in table arrangements over the holidays.
- Remove "weed" or undesirable trees from your landscape.

Spraying
- None

Lawn Care
- Keep tree leaves from collecting on your lawn.

Propagation
- Take leaf cuttings of your favorite house plants like African violets and begonia.
- Hardwood cuttings of your landscape plants like forsythia (yellow bells), flowering quince, weigela, crape myrtle and hydrangea can be taken this month.

Specific Chores
- Put pine needles or wheat/barley straw over your strawberry plants.
- Keep your living Christmas tree outside until you are ready to decorate. White pine is the recommended living tree for all of North Carolina. In the mountain region Fraser Fir is also recommended.
- Order your seed catalogs.
- Make a list of needed repairs on garden tools and equipment. Repair or have them repaired after the holidays.
- Shop around for garden products for your favorite gardener.
- If frigid weather occurs, be cautious when covering shrubs. Cover only with burlap or white plastic.
- Keep your cut Christmas tree in water throughout the holiday season.
- Order fruit trees and grape vines for February or March planting, if not already done.
- Visit the Extension office for information on the holiday house plants like poinsettia and amaryllis.
January Garden Calendar

Plants in Flower

- Japonica Camellia, Wintersweet, Daphne Odora, January Jasmine, Lenten-Rose (Helleborus)

Planting

- None

Pruning

- Prune broken and undesired limbs on your shade trees.
- Remove "weed" or undesirable trees from your landscape.

Spraying

- None

Lawn Care

- Keep tree leaves from collecting on your lawn.

Propagation

- Hardwood cuttings of many landscape plants like forsythia (yellow bells), flowering quince, weigela, crape myrtle, juniper, spirea and hydrangea can be taken this month.

Specific Chores

- Do not forget to care for holiday house plants like poinsettia, amaryllis, Christmas cactus, gloxinia and cyclamen.
- Order your small fruit plants like strawberry, blueberry and blackberry for a mid-March planting.
- Study your home landscape to see what additions or improvements can be added to your yard.
- Visit the local public library for landscape and garden information.
- Prepare a spot in the vegetable garden for February vegetables like English peas, cabbage, carrots, onions, Irish potatoes, radishes, rutabagas, spinach and turnips.
- Study your seed catalogs and check for the All-American Selections of flowers and vegetables.
- Order fruit trees, if not done last fall.
- Contact the Extension Center to find out the recommended small fruit varieties.

February Garden Calendar

Plants in Flower

- Japonica Camellia, Wintersweet, Breath-of-Spring (Winter Honeysuckle), Daphne Odora, January Jasmine, Lenten-Rose (Helleborus), Trailing Arbutus, Crocus, and Violets.
Planting

- First week in February start broccoli, cabbage, and cauliflower plants inside your home.
- Plant English peas, onions, radishes, rutabagas, and turnips.
- Plant asparagus crowns when soil is dry enough to work.

Pruning

- Prune all fruit trees (apple, cherry, nectarine, peach, pear, and plum).
- Prune muscadine and bunch grape vines this month.
- Trim ornamental grasses like liriope, mondo grass, and pampass grass.
- Cut back any overgrown shrubs. Severe pruning should be done this month.
- All summer flowering plants like Crape Myrtle, Rose-of-Sharon, eleagnus, and butterfly bush should be pruned. Prune camellias after they finish flowering.

Spraying

- Peach and nectarine trees need to be sprayed with a fungicide to prevent leaf curl.
- After pruning, spray all fruit trees with dormant oil to help eliminate some insects.

Lawn Care

- Cool season lawns like tall fescue should be fertilized. Follow soil test results.
- Control wild onion in your lawn with spot sprays of a recommended herbicide.

Propagation

- Divide perennials like daylily and shasta daisy when the ground is dry enough.
- Hardwood cuttings of many landscape plants like Crape Myrtle, Flowering Quince, forsythia, hydrangea, juniper, spirae, and weigela can be taken this month.

Specific Chores

- Order flowers for your sweetheart - Happy Valentine's Day!
- Develop a vegetable and landscape plan for your home grounds.