



10809 Honeycutt Rd., Raleigh, NC, 27614



www.homewoodnursery.com

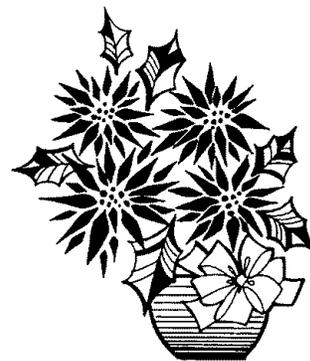
December Garden Planner



Christmas:

- ~ Homewood is a great place to get **beautiful Christmas trees!** Come see our **freshly-cut Fraser Firs** grown in the North Carolina mountains. We also carry **assorted container-grown evergreens** that can be used as live Christmas trees, and **Norfolk Island Pines** that can be kept as houseplants.
- ~ **If you have your poinsettia or Christmas cactus set in a foil wrap or pot cover**, be sure to cut a hole in the bottom to allow water to drain out. Keep in a well-lit spot and **water when the soil feels dry to the touch**. Keep poinsettias away from cold drafts and excess heat such as fireplaces.
- ~ We carry **fir, mixed greenery, and boxwood wreaths; greenery garlands, fir swags, mistletoe, kissing balls, incense cedar, Western and Eastern cedar, & magnolia, holly, and privet bundles, all-weather bows;** and more so that you can green up mantles, mailboxes, & doorways for the holidays!
- ~ Dress up your home with **“permanent” decorated or made-to-order wreaths**, as well as garlands, **festive decor**, and **seasonal flowering plants** suited for the occasion. **Ivy and angel vine**

Topiaries, and lemon cypress “trees” are pretty on the holiday table. **Norfolk Island pines** are indoor plants that provide a Christmas tree look and are great for small rooms and corners. **Poinsettias aren’t the only colorful indoor plant that bloom now.** Try **blooming cyclamen, orchids, and kalanchoes** to brighten interiors. Drop by the wrapping table in the greenhouse to **top these beauties off with a festive bow and pot cover.** Makes a great hostess gift!



Plant:

- ~ **Enjoy gorgeous amaryllis and paperwhite blooms** this winter by starting to force them now. **Amaryllis like to be crowded in the pot**, so only plant the bulbs in pots that allow an inch of space between the bulb and the side of the pot.
- ~ **There’s still time to plant for a spring garden!** As long as the ground isn’t frozen or water-saturated, you can plant. Plants experience less transplant stress while dormant or not actively growing.
- ~ **It’s not too late to get those bulbs in the ground!** It’s even ideal for planting tulips, hyacinths, and crocus.
- ~ **Arum is great to plant near hostas that have gone dormant.** As hostas die down in fall, **arum** starts to leaf out with attractive arrow-shaped leaves speckled or veined in white. When spring returns, arums die down as hostas emerge. Talk about made for each other!



Fertilize:

- ~ **Fertilize pansies and violas** with Ferti-lome Pansy Food for best color and production.
- ~ Mid-month is the **last chance to fertilize trees and shrubs.** Don’t fertilize perennials now.
- ~ **Now is a great time to add lime to the lawn or garden.** Not sure if you need to lime? Come to Homewood for a **free soil test kit** so you can send samples in for testing.

Prune:

- ~ **There's little pruning to do at this time.** Only if a plant part is **dead, damaged, or diseased** do you need to break out the pruning shears.
- ~ Once **fall-blooming camellias** have finished blooming you can prune them if you feel you need to control size. Otherwise, only prune what is dead, damaged, or diseased.

Garden Maintenance:

- ~ **Keep watering newly planted or transplanted trees, shrubs, and perennials.** Water about once every week or two when there is no rain and the ground isn't frozen but is dry.
- ~ **Clean and sharpen mower blades,** if necessary. Check YouTube for tutorials on this.
- ~ **Clean and oil garden tools** with boiled linseed oil before storing.
- ~ **Clean and organize potting area.** Seed flats and pots can be sterilized in a 10% bleach solution.
- ~ Continue **harvesting chives, cilantro & parsley.**
- ~ Now's a great time to **reward your soil** for all it gave you this season. **Top dress garden beds with 3 to 4 inches of compost.** If planting areas have heavy clay soil, add 2" of pine bark soil conditioner and till this in to a depth of about 8-10".
- ~ **Keep lawns free of fallen leaves.** Shred leaves with a mower or shredder and then compost them to make soil amendment or mulch for added nutrition & soil conditioning.



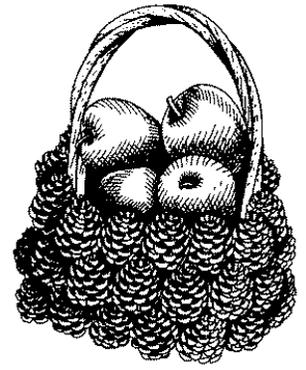
~ **Housplants** will stay happy this winter if you **keep them from areas with hot or cold drafts** such as near doors and heating vents. A **humidity tray, humidifier, or regular misting** will help mitigate dry, heated indoor air. **Watch out for overwatering** and water when the soil feels it's going from damp to dry. **Refrain from fertilizing** until spring. **Keep houseplants warm** by avoiding contact with cold window glass and, if the area seems cold, place folded cloth under pots to help insulate them.

- ~ **Move planted containers to a protected location** (against a wall or building that faces south is best). Mulch with pine straw or bark mulch to protect roots. **On freezing nights cover blooming camellias** and any tender or marginal plants with old blankets.

Integrated Pest Management

(IPM):

- ~ **Keep an eye on houseplants.** 'Tis the season for bugs to try to overwinter inside. Small infestations can be gently hosed off the plant (not for fuzzy-leaved plants like African violets). Larger infestations can be treated with horticultural oil spray or insecticidal soap.
- ~ **Keeping garden beds free of diseased leaves, fallen fruit, dead blossoms and twigs** will save you pest headaches next season since many disease pathogens will overwinter in garden litter.
- ~ **Inspect shrubs and trees for bagworm egg capsules** which look like small, cone-shaped bags (especially on arborvitae and juniper). Another pest to **keep watch for is the tent caterpillar's egg masses** which look like a grey-brown belt or swelling that encircles a twig. Remove and destroy both of these.



Special Note:

Christmas Cash Days are coming! December **18th-23rd**, redeem your Christmas Cash coupons (each worth \$1 or \$10) for **up to 50% off ANYTHING in the store, greenhouses, or nursery!**

Homewood will be CLOSED for Christmas December 24th-27th. AFTER CHRISTMAS SALE. From Dec. 28th-30th (10am-5pm), get **50% OFF ALL HOLIDAY MERCHANDISE (and possibly more!). We will be closed for New Year's on Sunday and Monday, Dec. 31st and Jan. 1st. We re-open Jan. 2nd and store hours will be 8:30am-5pm**

Wishing all of our great customers a wonderful, happy, delicious, peaceful, and fun Christmas and New Year's holiday!

Merry
Christmas!

