



10809 Honeycutt Rd., Raleigh, NC, 27614



www.homewoodnursery.com

January Garden Planner



Plant:

~ **As long as the soil isn't frozen or saturated with water, January is a fine time to plant hardy trees and shrubs in your garden.** One benefit is that plants that are planted while dormant endure less transplant shock than plants put in during the growing season, and their root systems have an easier time getting established. Amend the soil with soil conditioner, plant up on a mound if you have really poor drainage, and mulch. **We have a free Planting Guide at the nursery and at www.homewoodnursery.com on the GARDEN TIPS page.**

~ **If you want to plant annuals and biennials from seed** for next spring and summer, plan your planting schedule now. The average last killing frost date for our area is April 15th.

~ **Now's a good time to start sowing seeds indoors for cool season veggies** such as cabbage, kale, celery, greens, and broccoli. **Plant parsley seeds outdoors now.**

~ **Plant out seeds for poppies, sweetpeas, and larkspur.**

Fertilize:

~ **Now is the time to add lime to your lawn and garden** if a **soil test** has indicated low pH in your soil.

~ **Give houseplants a winter break from their fertilizing schedule.** Resume fertilizing in spring to get them going again for the growing season.

~ **Fertilize spring-blooming bulbs** with Bulb-tone once new growth is seen above ground.



Prune:

~ **Deciduous trees and shrubs are best pruned in late winter to early spring, around February or early March. Some basic cutting techniques:**

- Cut back to 1/4" above a bud.
- Cuts should face *away* from buds.
- Make cuts on a 45° angle.
- Cut above an outward facing bud to direct growth away from the center of the plant.
- For limbs larger than twigs, be sure to cut the limb just past the swollen area where branch and the trunk meet called the *branch collar*.

Types of pruners to use for different situations:



These loppers are good for larger branches and canes up to 1" thick. For branches larger than 1", use a pruning saw.



Use these hand pruners for pruning small branches and canes. Select pruners where the blades bypass each other (bypass pruners) when cutting instead of closing against each other blade to blade (anvil pruners).



These shears are handy for hedges and large, formal shrubs.



Pole saws help you reach smaller branches that are too high to reach by hand.

Need more information? Stop by the nursery for our free

guide to Pruning Trees & Shrubs or check the GARDENING TIPS page at homewood-nursery.com

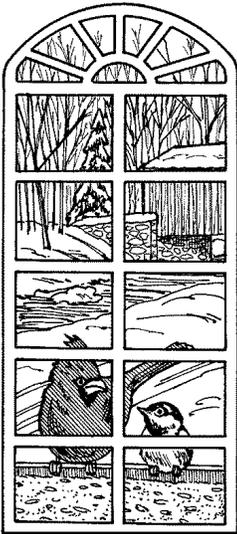
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~ This is a great time to do maintenance and repair on garden tools and equipment.



Sharpen and oil mower blades. Drain and recycle mower oil and replace with new oil. Clean and oil garden tools. This is also a good time to clean and re-organize potting areas. Sterilize seed flats and pots in a 10% bleach solution. Get rid of old seed packages and check supplies such as plant markers, stakes, potting soil, twine, etc. ~ It's a perfect time to sit back (preferably with a nice cup of cocoa or hot tea) and evaluate your garden. Is anything overgrown or

doing poorly? You may need to prune or renovate some plants or move them to better locations. Does your garden lack focal points of interest or unifying themes? Do you need more light to get through? It may be time to consider selective pruning of canopy trees or even tree removal. Check your garden for problem areas such as walkways on the side of the house or spots you want to camouflage or improve. Unsure of how to resolve a problem? Come and consult with one of our Certified Plant Pros in the nursery.

~ You may need to water the garden even though it's winter. If we haven't had rain and the ground isn't frozen, give your plants, especially fall-planted evergreens, a good soaking.



~ Mist houseplants regularly or set them on a humidity tray to help counteract warm, dry indoor air. Wash dusty leaves with a clean, damp cloth. (Tip: don't mist African violets.)

~ Use specially formulated products that are salt-free to melt ice on walks or driveways or sand or non-clumping kitty litter. Salt can damage plants and lawns.

~ Cover blooming camellias and any tender or marginal plants with a blanket or similar material (not plastic) on freezing nights. Making sure freeze-susceptible plants have a good layer of mulch is helpful, too. While you're at it, check other mulched areas and refill where needed.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM):

~ Spray roses and fruit trees with dormant oil this

month or in February to reduce disease and to smother overwintering insects & their eggs. Spray thoroughly to cover all of the branches. Don't spray if rain is due within 24 hours.

~ Remove spent blooms from under camellias to discourage camellia petal blight.

~ Keep an eye on houseplants since insects such as spider mites will be more than happy to overwinter there. Control can be achieved through horticultural oil or insecticidal soap (except on hairy plants such as African violet which may require a systemic insecticide).

~ Deciduous trees and shrubs that were troubled with scale or mites and other sucking insects this year can be treated once they are dormant with a dormant-season concentration of All-Season Spray Oil. Spray before buds show new growth. Conifers and other sensitive plants can be treated with a SUMMER concentration of dormant oil or All-Season Spray oil.

~ Protect bulbs that are being eaten by rabbits and mice by laying down small mesh chicken wire over bulb beds. If problems are severe, remember that rodents and deer avoid anything in the *Narcissus* family (daffodils), as well as fritillarias, alliums, & snowdrops, and consider re-planting with those.

~ Spray deer-susceptible plants with weather-resistant Liquid Fence, or Deer Repellent™ to help prevent browsing. Rotate products periodically to keep deer from getting acclimated to one product. Ultrasonic devices can help repel deer from specific areas.

January Workshops

Jan. 19th, 10:30am. Succulent Dish Garden Make & Take. Learn how to put together an adorable dish garden of pretty succulents and make one to take home! The class is free and you just pay for cost of plants, soil, and container.

Jan. 26th, 10:30am. Terrarium Make & Take. Learn how to put together and maintain a terrarium garden, and then create one to take home. The class is free and you just pay for cost of plants, soil, and container.

Spaces are limited. Please register by emailing your request to greenhouse@homewoodnursery.com. Or Call (919) 847-0117 and ask for Patty or Denise.

