



DECEMBER



GARDENING TO DO LIST

GENERAL

- ☐ drain hoses & bring indoors
- ☐ turn off outdoor faucets at indoor shutoff & open faucet to let any water drain out
- ☐ bring non-weatherproof pots indoors

VEGETABLES & HERBS

- ☐ overwinter carrots, turnips & parsnips: cover with straw/leaf mulch; harvest as necessary
- ☐ protect cool-season crops with a cold frame, plastic sheeting or floating row cover to extend productivity
- ☐ incorporate organic matter (like composted manure) into garden beds
- ☐ ensure indoor herbs are in full, direct sunlight or get 14 hours of fluorescent light each day

SHRUBS & TREES

- ☐ keep planting trees & shrubs as long as ground isn't frozen
- ☐ water newly-planted trees & shrubs during dry spells
- ☐ sweep heavy snow off branches & prevent build-up on gutters & eaves above
- ☐ clear away weeds & dead leaves around the bases of shrubs & trees (especially fruit trees) to reduce chance of rodent damage

WILDLIFE

- ☐ provide food (including suet) & water for birds
- ☐ clean seed hulls under feeders so they won't suppress plant growth
- ☐ put hummingbird feeders away
- ☐ keep spraying deer repellants

ANNUALS & PERENNIALS

- ☐ keep watering perennials in dry weather until 2nd heavy frost
- ☐ mulch perennials after first hard freeze with 1-2" of compost, shredded hardwood or pine mulch
- ☐ cover bare soil with mulch to prevent erosion
- ☐ apply compost to beds if you haven't already
- ☐ collect seeds
- ☐ remove fallen leaves from on top of & around evergreen perennials
- ☐ protect potted perennials (if you haven't put them in the ground) by covering with 8-10" of leaves (uncover in March)
- ☐ mulch lavender with gravel (marble is best)

LAWN

- ☐ rake leaves off lawn or chop them with a mulching mower & allow to decompose on the lawn
- ☐ service mower after final mowing of the year

HOUSEPLANTS

- ☐ check plants for pests (scale, mealybugs, spider mites) & treat as needed
- ☐ let soil dry to touch between waterings
- ☐ wake up potted amaryllis: water once, place in a bright location & wait for them to respond; water again in 2 weeks if they haven't responded