

JANUARY



GARDENING TO DO LIST

GENERAL

- ☐ plan new plantings; draw a to-scale sketch of your yard, including trees & shrubs (when bulbs & perennials emerge in spring, add them to the sketch) to determine placement & space for new plants
- ☐ sharpen tools & apply a light coat of oil to prevent rust
- ☐ clean mowers & other outdoor power tools
- ☐ clean gutters

VEGETABLES & HERBS

- ☐ check old seeds to see if they're still viable: place 10 seeds between moistened paper towels, roll them up and place in a plastic bag in a warm location for 5-7 days — if fewer than 75% have germinated, throw them out
- ☐ make sure your grow lights are working
- ☐ buy seeds early (starting mid-month) for best selection

WILDLIFE

- ☐ keep bird feeders clean & replenished
- ☐ keep bird baths clean & filled with unfrozen water
- ☐ if you have a pond, make sure a portion of it is clear of ice at all times

BULBS

- ☐ plant any left over bulbs as long as soil can be worked

SHRUBS & TREES

- ☐ prune deciduous (leaf-dropping) trees to remove dead or broken branches & branches that against each other & to improve form (just be conservative when pruning spring bloomers so you don't remove too many flower buds)
- ☐ sweep heavy snow off branches & prevent build-up on gutters & eaves above
- ☐ check plants for scale (white cottony masses on the undersides of leaves); if affected make a note to treat with horticultural oil later in the season when the hatchlings emerge
- ☐ remove & destroy bagworm bags from affected trees, principally evergreens
- ☐ if deer are a problem, apply deer repellants monthly, rotating two or more products

HOUSEPLANTS

- ☐ check plants for pests (scale, mealybugs, spider mites) & treat as needed
- ☐ let soil dry to touch between waterings