

WINTER GARDENING

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From a gardening perspective, the end of the year can seem to be relatively mundane. With the hustle and bustle of the holidays, garden activities seem less important.

In Texas, the gardening season begins January 1st and ends December 31st, so there is always something to do. Winter begins in December and can last until March.

Here are some gardening activities that can and should be done in January.

- Plant some trees. Local nurseries have a good selection of trees during winter.
- Water as needed if month is dry.
- Prune oak trees this month if needed.
- Feed and water birds.
- Prune trees of dead wood. Remove mistletoe through out the month.
- Remove dead plants from garden and beds.
- Add organic material to improve soil.
- Plant bluebonnet transplants into beds by the end of the month.
- Feed pansies and other winter annuals.
- Prune summer flowering shrubs by the end of the month.
- Begin tomato and pepper seeds indoors.
- Start a compost pile
- Plant container roses and begin to train climbing roses.
- Prune dormant fruit trees by the end of the month.
- DO NOT prune spring flowering shrubs until after bloom.

- Begin to make plans for new spring flower beds and/or add drip irrigation to existing beds.
- Look through seed catalogs and order right away. Time spent in armchair gardening will pay off in improved plant selection.
- Sow seeds in flats or containers to get a jump on plant growth before hot weather arrives.
- Water foliage plants as well as container plants only when needed.

For more information on any topic listed here you may contact Palo Pinto County Agriculture Extension office 940-659-1228

Aggie Horticulture is the essential site for Texas gardeners. There are many links within the site to go to for information on the many aspects of Texas gardening.

References:

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Agrilifeextension.tamu.edu

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