



Guilford Gardening Journal

Timely Tips for Your Central North Carolina Garden

January

Ornamentals & Houseplants

- Start your own annual transplants from seed to get a wider choice of variety.
- Wipe the dust off your houseplants' leaves. A damp cloth works well.
- Order bare root roses now - consider the all-American rose selections chosen for their performance in vigor, growth hardiness, disease resistance, and of course flower production.
- Check bulbs in storage – often dahlia tubers and gladiolas corms are attacked by rot. Throw away any that have rotted and spread the rest so they do not touch.
- Remove dried leaves and debris near plants to help control disease.

Edibles

- Begin pruning fruit trees. Proper pruning helps increase the quality and quantity of fruit.
- Start seedlings for broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, collard, lettuce and onions to be transplanted outside in March.
- Mulch strawberry beds for the coldest part of the winter months.
- Lay out a vegetable garden on paper to take advantage of all space available. Plan on a spring, summer and fall garden along with successive plantings.

Lawns

- Have your lawn mower blades sharpened this month. Sharp blades leave a clean cut that heals fast and ensures regrowth.
- If we have a mild day, work on controlling cool weather weeds such as chickweed.

Trees & Shrubs

- Remove any broken or storm damaged limbs: don't leave a jagged edge, make a clean cut.
- Make dormant cuttings of Oakleaf Hydrangea, Camellia, roses, forsythia and bunch grapes. For information on rooting cuttings: www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/hil/pdf/hil-8700.pdf
- Heavy structural pruning can be done on large evergreens like hollies and boxwood. Prune dormant trees & shrubs before new growth begins. Don't prune spring blooming trees & shrubs until after they bloom.
- Keep in mind that plants, especially newly set plants, need water even during the winter months.

Other

- Keep bird feeders full and enjoy watching our feathered friends.

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