

GARDENING HINTS FROM THE PRO
Sherri Harrah from Plants for All Seasons on SH 249

January 2018 To-Do list

In the beds

- Add new mulch to protect plant roots during freezing temperatures, conserve soil moisture and discourage weeds.
- Prune crape myrtle trees, removing only limbs necessary to thin out trees and provide a stately structure. This provides additional energy for profuse blooming all summer. **Topping is not necessary.** To avoid topping, plant a variety that will grow only to the height proper for the growing area. Ask your nursery for available colors and growth patterns. When pruning, use sharp tools and cut at 45 degree angles, leaving no stubs. This promotes proper healing. Cuts at right angles produce deadwood.
- Prune woody trees, shrubs, and fruit trees.
- Cut back ornamental grasses to ensure that the new growth will be able to emerge unhindered by old foliage. You will get a nice flush of growth in the spring.
- Winter-flowering plants need a feeding with a balanced fertilizer to keep blooming in these cold months.
- Prune back plants with freeze-damaged vegetation late in the month of January.
- Tree leaves can remain in flower beds for temporary insulation of plants.

In the Lawn

- Grass mowing is usually not necessary this month. A light covering of leaves can protect grass from cold weather, but do not allow to collect heavily and kill the grass below.
- Aeration of the lawn improves air circulation, helps break down any buildup of thatch and other organic material, improves moisture distribution and helps sunlight reach plant roots.

In the Garden

- Continue seeding lettuce, carrots, beets, cabbage, broccoli, peas, onion & radish.
- Keep garden fed with MicroLife Ultimate.
- Cover crops if we are going to have icy weather.
- Make sure to water if we are going to freeze to insulate root systems.
- Start planning for potatoes in February.