



GARDENING HINTS FROM THE PRO

Sherri Harrah from Plants for All Seasons on SH 249

January 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 a 45 degree angle, 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.

Get Your **Green** On!

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