



Gardening Tasks for January

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We say it every year don't we? How can it be January already? The seed catalogs are rolling in and tempting us to order everything that looks "tasty and different". I visited a Farmer's Market in South Bend, Indiana a few days ago and was delighted to find Heirloom tomatoes and some beautiful Brussels sprouts. It won't be too much longer before we can toy around with the idea of starting some seeds for the cool weather crops. Now that sounds exciting, doesn't it?

January is the gardener's month for study and introspection, because who we are and what we want affects what our garden will become. While you are dreaming about warmer days, hold your own mini brainstorm for your garden. Pull out those seed catalogs, collect inspirational photos, read through your garden journal and jot down notes to make your dream a reality.

This month's list of gardening tasks includes:

The Whole Garden

- 1) Collect seed and plant catalogs; 2) Check the dates on the seed packets you already own; 3) Read your catalogs thoroughly before ordering new seeds or plants; 4) Read gardening books and magazines for inspiration and new approaches to your landscape; 5) Study the bare bones of your garden and make notes on potential improvements; 6) Tour your garden to look for plant damage; 7) Plan new gardens; 8) Place your seed orders (so they don't sell out of those new varieties); 9) Beware of a January thaw!

Trees and Shrubs

- 1) Prune dead or broken branches off trees; 2) Prune summer and fall-blooming woody vines and shrubs while they are dormant; 3) Fertilize acid-loving shrubs if you didn't fertilize them in the fall

House Plants

- 1) Routinely inspect houseplants and outdoor plants overwintered indoors for pests and diseases; 2) Water indoor plants less frequently until they return to active growth; 3) Pinch and turn houseplants to keep them shapely; 4) Keep houseplants clean

Fruits and Vegetables

- 1) Make a plan to rotate vegetable crops when designing next year's garden;
- 2) Prune fruit trees now that they are dormant

Mark your calendars for our January 15th garden seminar at the Mt. Orab campus of Southern State Community College from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Eugene Braig, Program Director of the Aquatic Ecosystems at Ohio State University, will be talking about small ponds and water features in your landscape. He will discuss plants, chemicals, and maintenance of these smaller water features. Remember that all seminars are free and open to the public.

The temperatures are dropping again and the snowflakes are blowing! I'm dreaming of warmer weather and sun-warmed tomatoes, how about you?

