

# MONTHLY GARDENING CHECKLIST

# January

January in the Pacific Northwest is the first full month of winter and is a time of rest and dormancy. Houseplants take center stage this month by providing us with much needed greenery and new life. In the garden, January is the perfect time for planning and reflection in preparation for spring!



## FOR THE GARDEN

### Seasonal Color

- ☐ **Spruce up your front porch** with fresh flower pots of annuals like Primroses and Violas, and evergreen perennials such as Heucheras and Hellebores!

### Planting & Maintenance

- ☐ **Keep bird feeders clean and fill regularly**
  - Invest in multiple feeders with various seed types for greatest diversity of visiting birds.
  - Hang additional hummingbird feeder within 3 feet of existing feeder to reduce male domination.
- ☐ **Dormant spray** fruit trees, dogwood trees, and roses for disease and pest prevention. Dormant spray products:
  - **Bonide Liquid Copper Fungicide**
  - **Bonide All Seasons Horticultural Oil**
  - **Neem Oil**
- ☐ **Give your Christmas tree new life:**
  - **Fresh-cut tree:** Scatter cut branches over herbs, roses, or perennials for added winter protection.
  - **Living tree:** Plant with **G&B Soil Building Conditioner** and **G&B Starter Fertilizer**.

### Edible Gardening

- ☐ **Look through seed catalogs and notes** from last year's garden to begin planning for this year.
  - Take inventory of your seeds—make a shopping list and a plan to use existing seed packets.
  - Visit our garden centers to browse new seed arrivals!



## FOR THE LAWN

- ☐ **Rake leaves off lawns**—fallen leaves can suffocate lawns and should be raked off and placed into garden beds as mulch.



## IN THE SHED

- ☐ **Keep a supply** of frost blankets, burlap, or row covers easily accessible for last-minute plant protection. Landscape staples, clothespins, or binder clips are useful to keep covers in place.
- ☐ **Inspect gardening tools**—clean, sharpen, and oil as needed. Replace worn blades or springs on pruners.



## INDOOR GARDENING

- ☐ **Replace poinsettias** with new houseplants—try a ZZ Plant, Peace Lily, Aloe, or Snake Plant.
- ☐ **Tidy houseplants:** Dust leaves, rotate plants, wipe pots, replace old/dirty drainage saucers, and top-dress plants with a thin layer of potting soil and/or worm castings.
- ☐ **Force Christmas Cactus to rebloom in March:** When flowers fade, pinch off blooms and begin 5-week dormant period (no water or fertilizer). Second week of February, resume biweekly feedings and watering.
- ☐ **Shop for a large, statement houseplant** to enliven dark corners or areas where Christmas trees once stood—try a Ficus Audrey, Bird of Paradise, Monstera, or Dracaena.



## JUST FOR FUN

- ☐ **Make a terrarium** with leftover holiday glassware. Gather charcoal, sand or soil, moss, decorative rocks, and tiny tropical plants, succulents, or air plants.
- ☐ **Visit local public gardens** for inspiration:
  - Bishop's Close at Elk Rock
  - Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden
  - Hoyt Arboretum
  - Lan Su Chinese Garden
  - Leach Botanical Garden
  - Oregon Garden
  - Portland Japanese Garden