

January in the Garden

What to Plant . . . **Annuals:** Alyssum, aster, calendula, carnation, cosmos, dahlia, dianthus, dusty miller, impatiens, marguerite daisy, pansy, petunia, phlox, snapdragon, statice, strawflower, streptocarpus, sweet William, verbena; **Perennials:** aster, coreopsis, gaillardia, gazania, pentas; **Herbs:** anise, borage, chervil, chives, coriander (cilantro), dill, fennel, marjoram, mints, oregano, rosemary, sage, thyme; **Vegetables:** beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, Chinese cabbage, collards, cucumbers, eggplant, endive/escarole, kohlrabi, lettuce, mustard, onions, parsley, peas, peppers, radish, spinach, strawberry, summer squash, tomatoes, turnips; **Bulbs:** African lily, amaryllis, Amazon lily, calla, crinum, day lily, elephant ears, society garlic, spider lily, zephyr lily.

What's Blooming . . . **Hong Kong orchid trees.** Many cold sensitive shrubs will continue to provide color throughout the cooler months as long as they are not overcome by frost or freeze. These include many species including poinsettia, plumbago, jasmine, dombeya, Kalanchoes, Euphorbia Leucocephala, Sweet Acacia, Holmskioldia sanguinea, and hibiscus.

What to Prune . . . If necessary, this is a good month to remove large limbs and **reshape deciduous trees.** This is also a good time to prune **roses** and **muscadine grapes.** Hold off on any other pruning until early March, to be certain all danger of frost has passed.

What to Fertilize . . . Apply a granular slow-release fertilizer to **annuals, vegetables** and **herbs** planted this month. Continue fertilizing **palms** every three months. Do not fertilize turf, hibiscus, gardenias or other shrubs, trees or vines. Fertilizing them now will encourage tender new growth which are easily damaged by low temperatures. However, plants that show severe nutritional deficiencies should be fertilized with a good complete fertilizer.

What to Watch For . . . **Powdery mildew** on a wide variety of plants, **damping off** on impatiens, **dollar weeds** in turf. Many plants may not look their best for the next month or two; this is in reaction to cool winter temperatures.

January Journal:

- If any plants show signs of **cold damage**, DO NOTHING! The brown leaves and branches serve to protect the emerging green parts from further cold spells. Even if a plant appears dead, wait until March before determining where to prune.
- **Bahia and Bermuda grasses** have turned brown for the winter. If **St. Augustine** has brown areas, these may be decaying Bermuda grass or certain annual weeds. Water lawns once or twice weekly throughout the dry season. Give the lawn ½ to ¾ inch of water each time. This amount will soak deep into the soil building strong roots. Less water promotes weak shallow roots and too much can promote disease problems. January is too cool for the effective use of selective weed herbicides.
- **Florida's Arbor Day** is the third Friday in January. Plant a tree or shrub in honor of the day.