

WEEKLY NEWS COLUMN  
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## JANUARY GARDEN CALENDAR

January is a time of preparation and preventative maintenance in the garden. Browse catalogs, dream of what your garden can become, and do a few things outside on the warmer days.

### **Vegetables and Fruits**

- Pick up and discard fallen fruit before spring arrives.
- As nursery catalogs begin to arrive, look for plants with improved insect and disease resistance.
- Order fruit trees

### **Flowers**

- Peruse seed catalogs and prepare your seed order.
- Things you can start: For spring flowers, get unplanted spring bulbs in the ground as soon as possible.
  - Start seeds throughout the winter, depending on growing requirements.
  - Water fall-planted perennials to prevent dry soil conditions.
- Watch for signs of frost heaving and cover tender roots.
- Replace mulch layers.
- Check bulbs in storage for rot and decay. Discard damaged ones.
- Curl up with a good book and learn more about gardening.

### **Lawns**

- Avoid walking on frozen lawns. It may injure the grass.
- Rake fallen leaves that pile up on the lawn to prevent suffocation of grass.
- Scatter snow instead of piling it up on the lawn next to drives and walks.

### **Trees and Shrubs**

- Snow and ice on limbs:
  - Gently brush heavy snow from tree and shrub limbs to reduce damage.
  - Allow ice to melt naturally from limbs. Do not use water to melt the ice or attempt to knock it off.
- Pruning:
  - Prune storm damaged limbs quickly to reduce damage and prevent tearing of the bark.
  - Avoid the temptation to prune on warm winter day. You'll prevent further damage.
- Bring twigs of flowering trees and shrubs indoors to force blossoms.
- Water fall-planted trees and shrubs when soil is dry but not frozen.
- Watch out for rabbit damage to the bark of trees and shrubs.

### **Miscellaneous**

- Clean and repair garden tools during the winter.
- Sand and seal tool handles to prevent splinters. Apply brightly colored paint to handles. It makes them easier to spot in the garden.
- Keep bird feeders and water supplies filled for the feathered friends.
- Evaluate the garden and make notes to assist in next year's planning.

- Take photos of the garden and analyze for year-round interest.

For more gardening information, contact the Cowley County Extension Office 221-5450, 441-4565.

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