

GARDENING TIPS FOR JANUARY

Revised 11/19

Annuals & Perennials

- Fertilize pansies and other winter annuals with a water-soluble fertilizer that has nitrate nitrogen. Keep pansies watered. Cold weather dehydrates them.
- Deadhead pansies to promote new blossoming and to control fungal disease.
- See “Success with Pansies”
- <http://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.cfm?number=B1359>
- Use low nitrogen fertilizer (6-10-15 or 6-6-6) on daffodils.
- Plant perennials. Plants that are 2-3 years old will bloom the first season. Purchase the largest plants you can afford.
- Keep plantings well watered; especially new plantings. Cold and winds dehydrate plants.
- Top dress with 2-3 inches of mulch or compost to retain moisture, control soil temperature and diseases. Keep mulch away from plant crowns to prevent rotting in wet weather.
- Control weeds.
- Continue to clean up rose beds, perennial beds and borders.
- Inspect stored bulbs. Discard bulbs that appear diseased, damaged or rotting.
- Prepare new beds.
- Prune most ornamental grasses to a height of 12 to 24 inches. Look closely – avoid cutting new growth tips inside of clump.
- Water window boxes and outside containers. Plants need one inch of water per week.
- Have soil tested. Apply lime as recommended.
- Read: Winter Protection – Landscape Plants
<http://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.cfm?number=C872>
- Protect outdoor ornamental plants: Go to
<https://pender.ces.ncsu.edu/2014/01/protecting-garden-and-landscape-plants-during-cold-weather/>

Fruits

- Plant apple, peach, pear, plum and persimmon trees. Keep new plantings well watered.
- Weed control around fruit trees is crucial. Weeds act as hosts to over wintering insects.
- Remove grass and weeds from base of grape vines and fruit trees to help prevent mice and other rodents from damaging the plants.
- Dispose of diseased and mummified fruit from trees and grape vines. Do not compost.
- Sanitation is very effective in controlling disease. See “Guidelines to Identification of Plant Diseases”
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg441>
- Mulch root area with 2-4 inches of pinestraw or bark. Do not place mulch against trunk.
- Prune apple, fig, pear, plum, and persimmon trees and grape vines late January and into February.
- Have soil tested. Apply lime and fertilizer as recommended.

Trees and Shrubs

- Protect tender plants (camellias, gardenias) if night temperatures go below 20 degrees. Use burlap, weed barrier fabric or cotton sheets.
- Read: “Winter Protection – Landscape Plants” <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg025>
- Protect ornamental plants in containers during subfreezing weather. See “Winter Protection of Ornamental Plants.”
<http://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=C872&title=Winter%20Protection%20of%20Ornamental%20Plants>
- Plant winter-blooming shrubs like winter daphne or winter honeysuckle. Prepare the planting beds by tilling in soil amendments. Examine the roots at the nursery. Healthy roots are firm, white or cream color.
- Plant bare-root, balled and burlap or container grown roses through February. Prepare bed for bare-root roses: dig an area 4 ft. wide by 12 in. deep for each plant, adding plenty of soil conditioner.
- Plant trees and other shrubs. Be sure to remove synthetic burlap from ball and burlap plants. It does not decompose. Fertilize fall planted shrubs in the spring.
- Transplant trees and shrubs.
- Keep new plantings well watered.
- Refresh mulch, 3 inches deep, around trees and shrubs. Keep mulch away from trunks. If planting had a disease problem, remove old mulch to help prevent disease in future.

- Cut down and remove trees or shrubs attacked by Asian ambrosia or pine bark beetles.
 - Prune out dead, damaged or diseased material.
 - Prune hardwood trees. DO NOT TOP TREES.
 - Major pruning of broadleaf evergreens should be delayed until March.
 - Prune abelia, butterfly bush, chaste tree, crape myrtle, pee gee hydrangea, and St. Johnswort.
 - Pick bagworms from evergreen shrubs.
 - Inspect trees and shrubs for scale. Spray with dormant oil now and in early Spring.
 - Check for various pests and diseases. Prune or spray as required:
 - Arborvitae: Needle blight.
 - Azaleas: Southern red mite.
 - Camellia: Southern red mites. *Spray with horticultural oil to destroy overwintering mites and scale.
 - Cherry: Black knot.
 - Gardenia: Armored scale, gall.
 - Holly: Southern red mite.
 - Indian Hawthorne: Leaf spot.
 - Juniper: Bagworms, needle blight.
 - Leyland cypress: Needle blight.
 - Roses See annual maintenance schedule
- <http://extension.uga.edu/county-offices/cobb/agriculture-and-natural-resources/gardeners-corner.html>

Need an Arborist ?????

- **Perform a tree survey. Form available at**
http://www.gfc.state.ga.us/community-forests/management/trees-storm-safety/HomeownersRole_000.pdf
- Read “Tree Care and Drought”
<http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/drought.shtml>
- Read “Planting Under Trees”
<https://www.finegardening.com/article/planting-under-a-tree>
- Read “Best Management Practices in the Landscape”
<http://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.cfm?number=C873>

Have soil tested. Apply lime and fertilizer as recommended.

Turf

- Water turf as required.
- Mow fescue at proper height. Keep the blades sharpened.
- Do not fertilize Bermuda, centipede or Zoysia.
- Apply post-emergence herbicides as required.
- Rake leaves and use for compost. Matted leaves will kill turf.
- Avoid heavy traffic on dormant lawns. Dry grass is easily broken and crown tissue damaged.
- Have soil tested for dormant turf types. Apply lime and fertilizer as recommended.
- For detailed information on turf care and diseases go to: www.georgiaturf.com Click on Pest Management”.
- Additional detailed information for turf diseases <http://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.cfm?number=B1233>
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Vegetables

- Harvest vegetables and clean harvested rows immediately to prevent insect and disease buildup.
- Water vegetables, if required.
- Mulch to control weeds.
- Check for various beetles and bugs. Spray as required. Read the label for waiting time between spraying and harvest.
- If soil is dry enough to work, tilling will help control insects, weeds and nematodes.
- Sow a cover crop in beds that will not be planted.
- Spread manure, rotted sawdust and leaves over bed and plow under to improve soil tilth.
- Have soil tested. Apply lime and fertilizer as recommended.
- Plan this year’s garden. Rotate plantings of vegetables in the **same family** to control diseases.
- Check viability of saved seeds by placing some in damp paper toweling and observing germination percentage. If it is low, get new seeds.
- Plant asparagus, Brussels sprouts, leeks, onions and peas the latter part of the month.
- See “Vegetable Gardening in Georgia” for varieties, planting dates, etc.

<http://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.cfm?number=C963>

- Sow seeds indoors the latter part of January: broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, collards, leeks, head lettuce.
- For ideal seed germination temperatures see “Vegetable Seed Requirements”
<http://www.growgreatvegetables.com/plantinggrowing/germination/>

Water On March 8, 2018, The Director of Georgia Environmental Protection Division lifted the Drought Level 1 declaration. Outdoor irrigation is permitted 7 days a week before 10AM and after 4PM

- Fats, Oils, Grease <https://www.cobbcounty.org/watershed-stewardship/education/fog>

Read “Using Gray Water in the Landscape” by Kim D. Coder, Extension Forester, UGA.

<https://ugaurbanag.com/using-gray-water-in-your-landscape-and-garden/>

- Read “Best Management Practices for Landscape Water Conservation “
<http://caes2.caes.uga.edu/commodities/turfgrass/georgiaturf/Water/Articles/B1329.pdf>
- Water slowly and deeply. Deep watering encourages root growth.
- Use drip irrigation or soaker hoses. They use 50% less water than sprinklers.
- Check your irrigation system. (1) Is the timer set correctly? (2) Are all the nozzles working? (3) Are all the nozzles the same type? There is a significant variance in water applied between rotary sprinklers and spray heads.
- Set a timer and/or use a rain gauge when watering the lawn or garden.
- Check outdoor faucets, sprinklers and hoses for leaks. Replace washers as required.
- Select plants that are drought tolerant and have low water needs. Group plants with similar water requirements in the same zone. For a listing see

<http://www.ecoterrallandscape.com/cgi-bin/ViewTopic.pl?Topic=00-061506dt>

Use a rain barrel. For instructions to build one:

<http://www.bhg.com/gardening/yard/tools/make-a-rain-barrel-save-water/>

- Save water and use it wisely. Don’t water the lawn on windy days. Water plants, if required, applying one inch of water per week. **Observe current Georgia watering restrictions.**

Check with your local water system to determine if they have more restrictive regulations.

Fire Outdoor fires are permitted from October 1 thru April 30. For additional information and restrictions:

<https://www.cobbcounty.org/public-safety/fire/fire-marshal/outdoor-burning>

Environment Non-native invasive plants are a problem in Georgia and the Southeast. It is not only kudzu, Chinese privet, and golden bamboo. Become aware of these exotic pest plants and what you can do to inhibit them. Go to

<http://www.gaepcc.org> Click on plant list

http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/fia/manual/Nonnative_Invasive_Plants_of_Southern_Forests.pdf

- Protect the environment, watersheds and sewer system by the proper disposal of grease, hazardous household products and pesticides. <https://www.cobbcounty.org/watershed-stewardship/education/fog>
- Dispose of pesticides correctly. <http://www.walterreeves.com/tools-and-chemicals/pesticides-disposing>

Emergency Guide

What to do if a major incident affected our community. **Plan ahead. be informed. take**

action. The Citizen’s Action Guide provides information. www.cobbcounty.org/ema

Other

- Continue adding leaves and other organic materials to the compost pile. Do not add weeds with ripen seed heads. Seeds remain viable and will germinate when compost is used.
- Cut to the ground unwanted kudzu, English ivy, and bamboo. Spray foliage with herbicide in April.
- Watch out for poison ivy while working outdoors. Leafless vines and branches can cause rash.
- Do not burn poison ivy. Oils remain viable for a year and inhaled smoke can damage lungs.
- Check indoor plants for insects and spray insecticide if required.
- Water poinsettias when top inch of soil is dry to the touch. Keep plant in bright light but cool temperature. Do not fertilize until March.
- Remove faded amaryllis stems and blooms. Place outdoors in light shade in May.
- Clean gardening tools.
- Service your lawn mower and other equipment. Clean underside, drain gas, change oil and sharpen blades.
- Wrap exposed faucets to prevent freezing and burst pipes.
- Give the birds water and food.
- <http://extension.psu.edu/natural-resources/wildlife/landscaping-for-wildlife/pa-wildlife-14>
- <http://www.wbu.com/seasonally-savvy/winter/>
- Cover beds with small-mesh chicken wire to keep mice and rabbits out.
- Use sand or cat litter on icy sidewalks. Salt will damage adjacent plants.
- Start planning for next year's garden. Evaluate your microclimates:
www.ugaurbanag.com/content/microclimate
- A list of UGA horticultural publications is available <http://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=B625>
<http://www.walterreeves.com/landscaping/uga-downloadable-plant-list-publications/>

For a soil test, bring 2 cups of dry soil to the Extension Office. Cost is \$9.00 per sample, payable by cash, check or credit card.

Horticultural information is available from the Extension Office: planting and care of annuals, perennials, trees, and shrubs; pest, disease and weed control; turf management, and pruning. Call us at 770 528-4070.



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