

## January Gardening

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With the winter here it is a lot more enjoyable to get out in the yard and work. With cool temperatures you can work all day long if you want. Though I will not be able to list everything that could be done in the yard, I will try to list some of the main items.

\* Remember, the cooler temperatures means that turf (and other plants too) doesn't need as much water. Usually, during this time of year, St. Augustine only needs to be watered deeply (about 3/4 of an inch of water) once a week.

\* An easy way to keep winter annual weeds from spreading is to mow often enough so that the flowers don't set seed.

\* Flowers that need the cooler temperatures and may survive a freeze include: alyssum, dianthus, pansy, viola, petunia, phlox, stock, flowering kale, and snapdragons.

\* To protect tender plants from a freeze, simply cover them with some hay, a blanket or a quilt. If using a plastic tarp to cover the plants, don't let the plastic touch the foliage or damage could occur!

\* Bulbs to plant: *Agapanthus*, amaryllis, Aztec lily (*Sprekelia formosissima*), calla lily, crinum, kaffir lily, walking iris (*Neomarica gracilis*), African iris (*Morea* spp.), day lily, gloriosa lily, hurricane lily (*Lycoris* spp.), society garlic (*Tulbaghia violacea*), spider lily (*Hymenocallis* spp.), Tritonia (*Tritonia crocata* var. *miniata*), Tuberose (*Polianthus tuberosa*), Watsonia (*Watsonia* spp.) and rain lily (*Zephyranthes* spp.).

\* Herbs for January planting: Chives, chervil, comfrey, catnip, coriander, fennel, mint, parsley, lavender, rosemary, sage and thyme.

\* Watch out for tiny caterpillars on your vegetable plants and control when needed. Remember, the easiest method of control for large caterpillars is to pick them off and destroy them. For the smaller caterpillars (the young ones) Thuricide is an environmentally friendly choice.

\* For vegetable plants that are flowering and producing fruit, spray the foliage with fish emulsion and seaweed weekly. Spray both sides of the foliage until it drips.

\* Delay fertilizing trees, shrubs and the lawn until at least the end of February.

\* If needed, prune apple, grape, peach, pear and fig plants to shape, and remove any dead or diseased wood.

\* Plant deciduous fruit trees, shrubs and vines now while they are dormant.

\* If you want to relocate a deciduous tree or shrub, now is the time. You don't need to prune prior to transplanting. Water the plant well, dig up as large of a root ball as possible and then plant in it's new location. In well-draining soil, water it daily if we have sunny, warm weather and/or no rain.

\* Sow cucumber, eggplant, pepper, squash, watermelon, pumpkin, peas, okra, beans, cantaloupe, sweet corn and tomatoes seeds by mid-January for transplanting in March.

\* Vegetables that can be planted in January: Beets, broccoli, Chinese cabbage, cabbage, endive/escarole, egg plant, sweet and hot peppers, tomatoes, watermelon, carrots, cauliflower, collards, lettuce, mustard, onion sets, English peas, potatoes, radishes, spinach and turnips.

\* To save space in the garden when seeding carrots and radishes sow them in the same row because carrots are slower to germinate. The radishes will be harvested before the carrots need the space. Also, cover the seeds with some vermiculite to help mark the row.

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