

# Garden Club Horticultural Hints December 2018

## *And So Begins the Winter Gardening Season*



When putting up (and taking down) Christmas lights on trees and shrubs, be careful not to break off buds for next spring's flowers.



Burlap wind breaks can provide important protection for boxwood and broad-leaved evergreens such as rhododendrons and azaleas

Use evergreen branches for decorating and then in January to provide protection for low growing plants



Complete the protection of young trees from gnawing damage by mice, moles and others by wrapping the stems with small mesh wire or plastic trunk guards from the ground up to 2 or 3 feet



**Time to scatter seeds** for cold-hardy annuals that need to be exposed to sub-freezing temperatures in order to germinate in the spring. These include cleome, bachelor buttons, snapdragons, snow on the mountain and, for next year's monarchs, milkweed.





To avoid breakage of branches of evergreen trees and shrubs from damage by wind or snow accumulation, tie the branches up by wrapping with rope or mesh fencing. Do not wrap trees and shrubs in burlap. Burlap provides good shelter for rodents and other animals while preventing the plant from receiving sunlight throughout the winter.



Start regular sprayings of shrubs and small trees with vile smelling solutions such as Bobbex and Deer Off to prevent browsing of tender tips by hungry deer.



**Houseplants** need regular misting during winter months to prevent damage from the dry air in our homes. Alternately, place pots on saucers or trays with a layer of stone or pebble which kept wet will add humidity without risking root rot on your plants.

On a cold, wet day or evening this month, finish cleaning and oiling all wood and metal tools and sharpen pruners so they are ready to get to work in the spring.

