

Garden Club Horticultural Hints

January 2020

Resolve to be a greener gardener

Resolve to be greener this year. Do you have leftover chemicals – pesticides, herbicides or fungicides – hanging around your garage, garden shed or basement? These are dangerous poisons and must be disposed of properly. Contact your local Department of Sanitation or Public Works for the next chemical disposal day. And in 2020, pledge not to use lawn and garden chemicals.



Resolve to have a vegetable garden this year. Catalogs and garden centers are full of specially bred vegetables that don't require much space; just a container with good soil, placed in sunlight and regularly watered. Add a couple of marigolds to discourage pests and no one will recognize it as your vegetable garden.



Toss holiday poinsettias as soon as they begin to drop leaves. It's a tropical plant that requires a greenhouse to survive, let alone re-bloom, in New England. Once those bracts are gone, you're left with a spindly, leggy plant that is toxic to pets

Water sparingly between now and spring. If you keep your houseplants constantly wet (overwatered), they become a perfect breeding ground for fungus gnats. Those gnats, in turn, will quickly look for other plants to colonize. Allow soil in the pot to dry out somewhat between waterings.



Use these cold winter months to plan a new, small garden of something you have never grown before. It could be annual flowers from seed, summer and fall bulbs, perennial grasses or something that catches your fancy in a seed catalog. Breaking out of old habits keeps your garden interesting, and you might find a new passion.

Time is rushing by if you plan to order seeds or plants from catalogs. Far sooner than you think, many varieties may sell out. Or, the organic seed you prefer won't be available. Or you'll realize you didn't order something you promised yourself last year that you would grow this year

Whether ordering online or through a catalog, look for plant and seed sources that match our climate. Pinetree Seeds and Johnny's of Maine are two such sources.



Written and created by Betty Sanders. For more horticultural suggestions for January and throughout the year, please visit www.BettyOnGardening.com