December Gardening To-Do

- As long as the weather holds, you can continue to do some garden chores. It's never to late to rake leaves and now is a perfectly fine time to do any necessary pruning.
- Did you remove your hoses from the outdoor faucet and bring them indoors? Otherwise, they may trap water and damage pipes.
- Cut evergreens from your yard. They make beautiful holiday decorations. Just remember that each cut is a pruning cut, so do so with care. Make garlands, strew on a mantle top, or even tuck into a vase with some pretty holiday flourishes.
- Keep poinsettias evenly but not overly watered. They dry out easily, but will yellow if kept soggy. Position them in a bright spot away from cold drafts and blasts of heat from a vent or fireplace.
- If you clean a wood burning stove or fireplace, dump the ashes on your compost heap. Ash is a great source of phosphorous.
- If you have a live tree, water it daily. It sucks up an amazing amount of water!
- Don't fertilize houseplants this month. With our shorter days and cooler houses, they're not growing much.
- Check on forced bulbs. If necessary, water to keep soil evenly moist. Once you see shoots one-half to one inch high, take out the pots and put them in the sunniest, brightest spot you have.
- Evaluate your landscape in winter. Think of good places, come spring, to plant evergreens and trees or shrubs with interesting bark. You'll be able to enjoy them next winter.

Notes