

JANUARY GARDENING CHECKLIST



Purple Beautyberry

LAWN—The rainiest and the coldest months of the year are usually January and February. Avoid walking on soggy garden soil, particularly clay found in the Piedmont (Upstate South Carolina). On dry days, mow dormant, warm-season lawns. Mowing will remove fallen leaves and pine needles. Check lawn for winter weeds.

PRUNE—Now is the time to prune hybrid tea roses. They bloom only on new wood. Cut back canes one-third to one-half its height leaving canes at least 18 inches long. Cut above a swelling bud pointing out from the center. Remove all suckers and dead wood. Prune climbing roses to remove twiggy growth and weak shoots. Prune canes that flowered last year to three or four buds.

BIRDS—With gardens bare and bird baths frozen, our feathered friends are without food and water. Make bird treats to hang from tree limbs and put out seed and water. (Bird treat recipes can be found on my website www.itsallabouthome.com)

PREPARE—As long as soil is not wet or frozen, begin turning the soil in beds.

PLAN—Peruse seed catalogs and plan your vegetable and flower gardens.

PLANT—Even during the chill of January, you can plant new shrubs and trees. If you don't see much color in your landscape during the winter, consider planting shrubs with bright colored berries. One of my additions this month will be Beautyberry. Its bright purple berries will complement my pink and purple themed garden nicely and liven up the gray days of winter.