

WHAT ARE OUR STAR GARDENERS DOING IN JAN?



Janet Schulz:

January and February are the months to reflect and plan. The seed catalogs have already started to arrive, and it is really hard to resist all that they offer.

I do not have enough sun to do veggies, but for those of you who do, try thinking outside of the box. Maybe try a new variety of something you have already grown, or maybe consider something you have never tasted or grown before.



For those of you who grow annuals from seed, think about vines as an option. They take so little room.

(Pic featured is *Pseudogynoxys chenopodioides* "Mexican Flame Vine")



The challenge: a little packet of seed sometimes has much more than you can use, so think about sharing some of the plants that germinate. You may just be giving someone else a new start at growing from seed!

As for me, what am I doing? This is the time of year I take cuttings of my tender plants. I am becoming a begonia collector. Pruning makes the plant become bushier, and I always have plants to share.

Happy New Year and Happy Gardening !

Barbara Douglas:

No hints but just wanted to wish you all good health and all my best in 2024. Can't believe it's going to be 2024!

Andrea Florio:

I am keeping my bird baths clean and as unfrozen as possible and really enjoying the birds. I am sitting back with a cup of hot tea, relaxing and I'm enjoying the winter garden very much!

Sharon Ma:

The Plant Hardiness Zone Map was updated and improved in November of 2023, based on the addition of thousands more local weather stations. Many of our zones have moved up one category (warmer) because our area is getting warmer. We have been blessed with mild weather in the last few months. However, even though the temperature is getting warmer, we may still get hit with a few more really cold nights, so it is important to protect any tender plants in the garden. I have finally wrapped up my fig trees to keep the branches from freezing.

In Jan, I will be busy making new gadgets for my garden. One useful thing to make is "Plant Locators" to mark my spring ephemerals when they appear in the spring. These locators help prevent accidental planting of annuals into empty-looking spots which actually conceal dormant ephemerals during the summer months. To make the marker, I will use a hot-glue gun to attach a glass marble atop a three-inch plastic golf tee.



In my spare time, I plan to organize my seed collection.

Marina Kunkera:

January is the time to start dreaming and planning ...

Are you satisfied with the way your garden looks in the winter, would you like to change or add to it ?

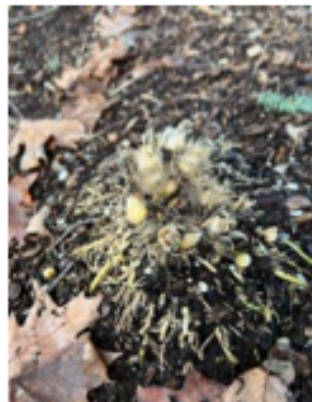
Are there new projects you would like to do in your garden this year ?

Are there challenges you want to overcome or get better control over (deer)?

Are you a collector of beautiful plants and trees ?

I've just discovered that Youtube offers a lot of (free) gardening videos on beautiful gardens, and gardening in general. Just go to Youtube 'search' on the far left column - spell out gardens or gardening - many icons will appear on the screen and you may begin your discovery.

I will be studying my favorite gardening magazines ...



We've had some strong rain downpours, and I've discovered some erosion in my garden, especially around some of my hostas. I will be covering them with a couple of shovels of soil I dig out of my compost pile.

Please check your own plants so they will not freeze and die when the real winter weather arrives.

I have already started filling my new raised beds with branches that have broken and dropped during the strong winter winds. I only need no more than 12" of good soil for my vegetable bed. By filling the beds with branches and leaves that will settle down and compact during the winter, I'm saving a lot of money by not having to buy so much potting soil.



That's all from me, but whatever you do 🍀 don't stop dreaming. Happy New Year!