

Alabama Gardener's Calendar

January

► Learn—month by month—the necessary gardening activities for lawns and shrubs, annuals and perennials, fruit and nut trees, and bulbs, roots, and tubers. Included is a timeline for activities such as soil testing, planting, pruning, fertilizing, pruning, mulching, indoor plantings—from cauliflower to okra, from camellias to dahlias to heirloom roses.

Fruits and Nuts

- Set out apples, peaches, pears, and grapes.
- Start grafting pecans. Prune dormant trees.

Shrubs

- Plant shrubs and trees, including broadleaf, narrow leaf, and deciduous.
- Graft camellias in south Alabama.
- Apply an ultrafine horticultural oil spray to all deciduous shrubs to help with control of insects and diseases.
- Spray when weather is on warming trend.

Lawns

- Soil test and add limestone as recommended.
- Apply preemergent herbicides if forgotten in September and if spring weeds were a concern last year.

Roses

- Visit nurseries and garden centers to select varieties.
- Plant roses. Consider old fashioned, disease tolerant cultivars.

Annuals and Perennials

- Plant hardy annuals.

Bulbs

- Late plantings of Dutch bulbs will flower if planted now.
- Plant lilies of all types, except Madonna.



- Check stored bulbs and discard rotten ones.
- Make indoor plantings of amaryllis, callas, and gloxinias.

Miscellaneous

- Prune winter-damaged limbs.
- Give house plants a bath in lukewarm water to remove dust.
- To keep poinsettias that have finished flowering, turn pots on their sides and let them dry completely.
- Cut them back lightly.
- Keep in a temperature of 55 to 60 degrees.

Vegetable Seeds

- **South:** Plant hardy vegetables and root crops (garden peas, radishes, mustard, spinach, turnips). Start cabbage, broccoli, lettuce, and Swiss chard seeds in cold frames.

Vegetable Transplants

- **South:** Plant broccoli, celery, collards, cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce transplants, and onion sets.
- **South and Central:** Plant asparagus in late January.
- **Central:** Plant cabbage and cauliflower transplants. Wait until the end of January to plant Swiss chard, mustard, transplants, and onion sets.

Questions?

Call the Master Gardener Helpline at (877) 252-4769. A Master Gardener Extension volunteer is waiting to answer your call.



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New May 2020, ANR-2613

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