



ELGIN NURSERY

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Desert Garden Calendar Monthly **DO** List **DECEMBER**

Prepare for frosts now. If you don't care for your sensitive trees, bushes, flowers, and vegetables before the first frost, it's probably too late, since the first frost will permanently damage them.

It is not uncommon to have up to 20 frosty mornings in December. Be prepared to cover those frost-tender plants throughout December.

Grass

Your over-seeded winter lawn should be established by now.

If your winter lawn turns yellowish, fertilize with a high nitrogen fertilizer.

Water every 5 - 7 days, or more often if you notice a drying-out of the soil.

Light or sandy soils dry out faster.

Trees/Shrubs

Wrap the trunks of young citrus and other cold-tender trees with cloth to protect them from frost.

Leave them wrapped until the threat of frost has passed.

Sweet oranges, navels, lemons, tangerines and tangelos may be picked now, but pick only as needed.

As the season wears on, the fruits will continue to sweeten.

Citrus fruit stores best on the tree.

Christmas Trees

Living Christmas trees can be purchased the week after Thanksgiving.

They make a great shade tree in the yard when the holiday season is over.

Our gorgeous pines sell quickly, so please hurry in as quantities are limited.

Flowers

Flowers can still be planted, so choose your favorite annuals and perennials.

Poinsettias will turn yellow if you water them with the foil sleeve still on, because they will sit in the water. Take them to the sink, remove the foil sleeve, water until water comes out the bottom, let them drain for a few minutes and then put the foil sleeve back on.

You can get a stunning holiday poinsettia from Elgin Nursery.

Vegetables

Plant seeds: beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, garlic bulbs, green onions, leeks, lettuce, parsley, peas, radishes, swiss chard, spinach and turnips.

Asparagus is best planted in a single row.

Plant transplants: asparagus, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce (head & leaf)

Monthly **DON'T** list for December

Don't do any major pruning in December.

Don't fertilize trees or shrubs in December. Wait until spring.

Don't over water. Don't ignore pest problems.