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Desert Garden Calendar Monthly **DO** List

JANUARY

**DO NOT USE
PLASTIC!**

When frost is forecast, cover frost-tender plants with frost cloth (**not plastic**) by 8 p.m. and remove by 10 a.m. the next day.

A mature citrus tree, older than 6 years, will survive with minimal damage.

Grass

Fertilize every 4-6 weeks with a high nitrogen fertilizer. If you did not over seed the Bermuda grass, water the dormant Bermuda at least once a month.

Trees/Shrubs

Plant fruit and shade trees as early in January as you can.

Plant potted deciduous trees.

Prune deciduous fruit trees and grapes.

Flowers

Bedding plants can still be planted. Plant flowers and veggies in pots and place on your patio, entry-way, or courtyard. Prune established roses for optimum blooming in April.

Cut canes back approximately one half. Remove all dead canes. Thin to remove weak or old canes.

Strip off all leaves. Seal all cuts on canes with pruning sealer to prevent cane borers from boring into the cane.

Vegetables

Plant seeds: beets, bok choy, carrots, chard, collard greens, leeks, lettuce, mustard, green onions, peas, potatoes, radishes, rutabagas, spinach and turnips.

Plant transplants: artichokes, asparagus, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, chard, and lettuce

Prepare your soil for a spring/summer garden. Organic matter, mulch, manure or compost is very important.

Monthly **DON'T** list for January

- 1) Wait to prune frost damage from plants or trees until the later part of February.
- 2) Don't fertilize dormant Bermuda grass until late April or May.
- 3) Don't plant roses with western exposure because of the afternoon summer heat.
- 4) Don't over-prune your palms. Palms with only the top three or four fronds remaining have been pruned excessively and improperly. Only the lower leaves, the ones that have turned brown, or are yellowing should be removed.
- 5) Water both the day before and immediately after applying granular fertilizers.
- 6) Don't water grass at night when the temperatures are coolest as this fosters the growth of fungal diseases.
- 7) Don't mow when grass is wet. This also may result in fungal disease.
- 8) Don't delay on weed control.
Handle weeds while they are young, tender, and their roots are manageable, or before they sprout.