

December Garden Tips

GENERAL

- ⊗ Enjoy a cup of [herbal tea](#) made with dried herbs from your garden.
- ⊗ Clean and store hoses and flower pots.
- ⊗ Clean and sharpen lawn and garden tools and store them in a dry storage area.
- ⊗ Store leftover garden chemicals according to label directions, out of the reach of children.
- ⊗ A home weather station that includes a minimum/maximum thermometer, a rain gauge and a weather log is a good gift for a gardener.
- ⊗ Start reviewing and expanding your garden notes to help with next year's plans.



HOME (Indoor plants and activities)

- ⊗ When shopping for a [Christmas tree](#), check for green, flexible, firmly held needles and a sticky trunk. Make a fresh cut, and keep the cut end under water at all times.
- ⊗ Leave holiday cactus in a cool location for as long as possible to promote bud set.
- ⊗ Keep poinsettias moist. If allowed to dry out, the bottom leaves will turn yellow and drop off.
- ⊗ Check fruits, vegetables, corms and tubers that you have in storage.
- ⊗ Increase humidity around houseplants by running a humidifier, grouping plants or using pebble trays.
- ⊗ House plants with large leaves and smooth foliage such as philodendrons, dracaena and rubber plant, benefit if their leaves are washed with a damp cloth to remove dust.
- ⊗ Start some herbs on your kitchen windowsill for use all winter long.

LANDSCAPE (Lawns, trees, shrubs and flowers)

- ⊗ After Christmas, [move your cut tree outside](#) and redecorate for the birds using strings of popcorn, fruit and pine cones covered with peanut butter, then dipped in birdseed.
- ⊗ Do necessary pruning after trees and shrubs have become dormant. Now is the time to [prune oaks](#), which can only be safely pruned in the winter.
- ⊗ Consider the impact of [snow, cold, and ice on woody plants](#). Protect from extensive snow loads by tying woody stems together with twine. Carefully remove heavy snow loads with a broom to prevent limb breakage. Allow ice to melt from branches.
- ⊗ Minimize traffic on a frozen lawn to reduce winter damage.

GARDEN (Vegetables, fruits and herbs)

- ⊗ Check fruit trees for mouse damage and respond with appropriate traps and/or poisons.
- ⊗ Check on fruit and vegetables in cool storage. Remove any that show signs of spoiling.



Illinois Extension

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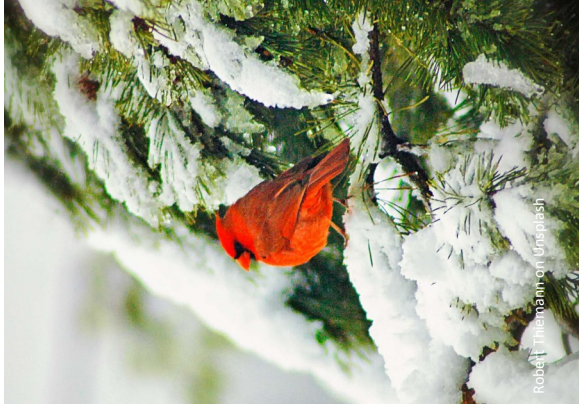
December Weekly Planner

Week of _____

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday



Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

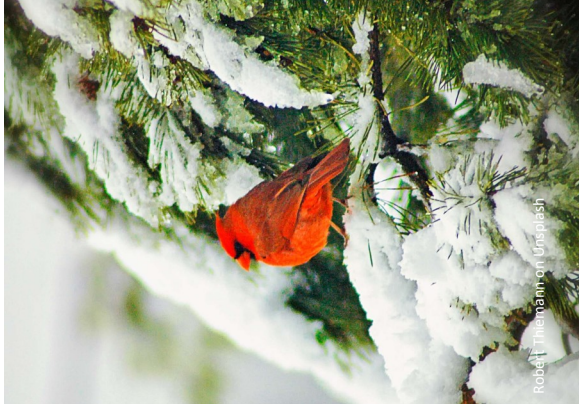
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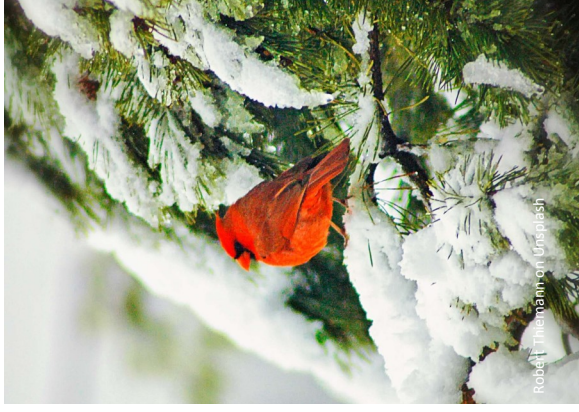
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December Notes



December Pictures/Sketches/ Observations

