

Gardener's Corner

December 2025

Winter is here—just look out the window at the snow remaining. There is so much activity as we put up our trees, find just the appropriate present for loved ones, enjoy holiday parties and bake cookies. Despite all this, there are some gardening activities we can engage in both in the house and outside.

Some tasks and tips from the **Missouri Botanical Garden** this month remind us that houseplants usually need less water during indoor winter months, so check your plants when watering to make sure they drain properly. When watering, remember to use tepid water.

Protect any plants you buy with a protective covering as you bring them home. A box or large bag will do the trick. Once in the house, place them back from cold windows on very cold nights so they aren't injured.

We all like to have poinsettias at this time of year. The best way to take care of holiday poinsettias is to put them in bright, indirect light. The soil should dry slightly between waterings but make sure that it can drain. If your plant has foil around it, poke holes through the foil to assure water doesn't pool.

If you buy a live Christmas tree, make a fresh cut at the base before placing it in water. That will allow the tree to hold its needles longer. Also, check the water periodically so that the tree doesn't dry out.

Shrubs outside in the garden should be thoroughly mulched. Any type of organic matter will suffice. You can trim holly bushes now and use the cuttings for decorations.

Garden Design has an article about bulbs that keep deer away. Entitled *12 bulbs that keep deer at bay*, the article may give you some help in planning for spring if you have problems with these critters. You can find it at: https://www.gardendesign.com/bulbs/deer-resistant.html?utm_source=article-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=bulbs-11-27-25

If you are stuck inside because of snow or other bad weather, you can add to your horticultural knowledge by checking out the videos from **Smithsonian Gardens**? Their *Let's Talk Garden* series has a variety of topics that may be of interest. You can find them at: <https://gardens.si.edu/learn/lets-talk-gardens/>

Happy Holidays!