

January Garden Tasks in Transylvania County

Fertilizing

- If you have them, add wood ashes to the vegetable garden, bulb beds and non-acid loving plants if the pH of the soil is below 6.0. Maximum amount to incorporate per year is 20 gallons per 1,000 square feet. [Using ashes in the garden](#)
- Fertilize actively growing and flowering houseplants only. [Houseplants](#)

Planting

- Plant ornamental trees, fruit trees and shrubs. [Planting trees and shrubs](#)

Pruning

- Prune broken and undesired limbs on your shade trees. [Pruning](#)
- Remove undesirable trees from your landscape.

Lawn Care

- Keep tree leaves from collecting on your lawn.

Propagation

- Take hardwood cuttings of many landscape plants such as forsythia, flowering quince, weigela, crape myrtle, juniper, spirea and hydrangea. [Propagation from cuttings](#)

Miscellaneous To Do

- Water and adjust lighting for house plants, particularly holiday poinsettia, amaryllis, Christmas cactus, gloxinia and cyclamen. Do not fertilize non-flowering house plants in the winter months, let them go semi-dormant. [Houseplant care](#)
- Study the "skeleton" of your landscape and decide where to put new structures, such as pathways and arbors. [Landscape design](#)
- Study the plantings in your landscape to see what additions or improvements can be made this spring.
- Create a database of your garden plants with notes on performance.
- Discard old seeds.
- Study your plant and seed catalogs and make a list of plants you'd like to grow this year.
- Order asparagus for early March planting [Growing asparagus](#)
- Order your small fruit plants such as strawberry, blueberry, raspberry, and blackberry for a mid-March planting. [Small fruits in the home garden](#)
- Keep compost piles turned and moist but not wet. Keep piles covered so rains do not leach nutrients. [Composting](#)
- Feed and provide water for wild birds during cold weather, keeping feeders well stocked with favorites such as black oil sunflower seeds. [Wild birds](#)
- Rake heavy snow off shrubs.
- Check, clean and repair garden equipment and tools. [Garden tool care](#)
- Clean and sterilize garden pots and transplant trays with a 10% bleach solution. [Sterilizing containers](#)
- Soil test if you have not done so in the past 2-3 years. [Gardener's guide to soil testing](#)
- Pull or spray winter weeds such as wild onions and chickweed. [Cool Season Weeds](#)
- Near the end of the month, weed the asparagus and strawberry beds and renew thinning mulches.



Plants in bloom in January: Camellia, Witch Hazel, Hellebores

