



JANUARY

in the garden

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

TEXAS
MASTER GARDENER
TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION
Bexar County



BIRDS AND WILDLIFE:

- There are still some hummingbirds around, so keep your feeders in place.

COLOR:

- Continue to care for winter annuals.
- There is still time to transplant pansies, dianthus, stocks, calendulas, and other cool-season annual flowers.
- Bluebonnets will have an active growth spurt in February and March.
- Bougainvilleas will bloom all winter if they are in a greenhouse.
- Many tulips, daffodils, paperwhites, and other spring bulbs emerge and bloom this month.
- If the weather is warm, watch for aphids.
- Spring-blooming, pre-chilled bulbs can still be planted if done early in the month. Just remember that tulips are considered annuals in South Texas.
- Be sure to maintain moisture in house plants. Do not place houseplants near a heat source or in a bright-sun window.
- Repot Christmas cactus in a peat moss- or pine bark-based medium. Keep the soil moist.



SHADE TREES AND SHRUBS:

- If you must prune oak trees, January is a good month to do it. Be sure to paint with latex-based paint all the cuts.
- Prune deciduous trees now while you can see damaged or rubbing limbs, misshaped parts, etc. Do NOT top the trees.
- This is an excellent time to plant new shrubs and trees.
- Should you need to transplant established trees and shrubs, do so now while they are still dormant and will have sufficient time to re-establish a root system before spring growth begins.



FRUITS AND NUTS:

- Apply dormant oil to control scale and other insects on fruit trees. Follow the instructions on the label.
- Bare-root and containerized fruit trees, blackberries, and grapes should be selected and planted as soon as possible so they will be well established before spring growth begins.



VEGETABLES:

- If you pluck or cut individual leaves from lettuce or spinach, they will continue to produce.
- Harvest broccoli heads before the flowers open.
- String-mow your Elbon rye and vetch and till it into the garden at the end of January.
- By the end of the month, thin onions you planted in October so that plants are 6-8 inches apart.
- Side dress actively growing vegetables.

TURF GRASS:

- If you don't receive an inch of rain, water the lawn, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch every 2-3 weeks.
- It's a good time to aerate with the plug-cutter type and then top dress with a half-inch of compost.
- Don't fertilize or use weed-and-feed products.
- Gradually build up low spots in the lawn with $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 inch of compost, sand, or top-dressing.
- You could still overseed with Elbon rye grass, but it may or may not do well.



ORNAMENTALS:

- Don't prune blooms on early-blooming plants like mountain laurel, flowering peach, ornamental cherry, climbing roses, althea, etc.
- Keep your living Christmas tree well-watered (once per week).