GARDEN CHECKLIST

December in the Garden

a little garden time in a busy month



The garden is resting, even if you aren't. Check off what you get done, then jot notes for next year at the bottom.

Indoors

- [ ] **Water amaryllis** sparingly until the stalk shows, then turn the pot so it grows straight.
- [ ] **Give poinsettias bright light,** and keep them away from drafts and heat vents.
- [ ] **Water a Christmas cactus** when the top of the soil feels dry.
- [ ] **Check stored bulbs and tubers** and toss any that are soft or moldy.
- [ ] **Turn houseplants** toward the window every week or two.

Protect

- [ ] **Mulch perennials and roses** once the ground freezes.
- [ ] **Brush heavy snow off shrubs** gently, so branches don't bend and break.
- [ ] **Water evergreens** on a mild day if the ground isn't frozen and the fall was dry.
- [ ] **Use sand, not salt,** on walks near garden beds.

For the birds

- [ ] **Keep feeders full** of suet and black oil sunflower seed.
- [ ] **Keep the birdbath open** with a heater once the water freezes.
- [ ] **Clean feeders** on a mild day.
- [ ] **Join the Christmas Bird Count,** December 14 to January 5.
- [ ] **Save the Christmas tree** and lay it in the yard as winter cover for birds.

Plan ahead

- [ ] **Page through seed catalogs** and start a wish list.
- [ ] **Note what grew well** this year, and what didn't.
- [ ] **Check your seed stash** for what to use up or reorder.
- [ ] **Give a gardener** seeds, bulbs, or a good pair of gloves.

My garden this month

First snow: _____

Coldest night: _____

Blooming indoors: _____

Birds at the feeder: _____

Notes for next year