

## GARDENING NOTES FOR JANUARY

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The beginning of a new year, January can be the coldest month, and if snow falls it can last longer than in December. Little can be done in the garden during January, if there is heavy snow, knock it off tree branches, to minimise any damage.

Check the garden for wind damage, if any shrubs have been loosened, support them temporarily by tying to a cane. General jobs for January include: cleaning spades etc. servicing the mower and sharpening shears. Also washing plastic trays and pots ready for spring.

Now is the time to think about seeds, with them being ordered as soon as possible. During January sweatpeas can be sown under heat. Seed potatoes can be bought and put into trays in a dark, but frost free position, but not too warm as this will encourage early sprouting.

Keep house plants warm but do not water too often, unless the plant is flowering or showing signs of vigorous growth, even then do not over water. Continue spraying fruit trees with tar- oil winter wash. Newly planted blackberries etc. need cutting back to about 9-12 inches from the soil. Feed established trees with 1 oz nitro-chalk per sq. yard.

When the weather permits continue with winter digging, while keeping drains clear of leaves.