

Winter Garden Planning

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The Deborah Rawson Memorial Garden is quietly sleeping under layers of white snow. Its Master Gardeners are looking forward to spring. A whole year of gardening is ahead of us. Now the best time to pause, reflect and prepare for a year of incredible gardening. Here are a few winter gardening tips to keep you busy while the snow is still on the ground.

The first task is to dream, scheme and plan for next season. Winter is a great time to review how our gardens grew and think about new ideas for what to do differently next year. Look through the garden photos and notes you've taken, then make a list of plants that need to be moved, divided or replaced. Search for solutions about how to improve your soil and make a list of the new plants you'd like to try.

The second task is to pre-order bulbs and plants for spring. Gardening catalogs are a great way to learn about new plants, tools, and supplies. Grab your highlighter and start marking your must-haves for next spring or go online to pre-order plants and bulbs. Visit our local hardware store and enjoy their large selection of seed packets. Now is a great time to purchase seeds. Organize your new orders and the seed packets you have left over from last year, so you'll know exactly what you have to add to the garden in spring.

Keep in mind when ordering plants, the "Right Plant, Right Place" rule for gardeners. The whole concept behind 'right plant, right place' is that if you choose plants that are well-suited to the location where they will be planted, they will perform well with limited additional input. Plants that are well suited to their site will establish quickly, they will have a healthy root system, and be healthier plants. Healthy plants will be much better equipped to withstand problems than those who are struggling with their environment.

Ward off those winter blues with a hearty helping of green, gardening thoughts planning your garden!