

2024 WINTER HORT REPORT

JANUARY

- Now is the time to enjoy being dormant. You need a cup of tea, a comfy chair by the fire, and your 2024 seed and plant catalogs. I've put down the straw mulch and covered it with the Christmas tree's branches; now I am enjoying my [Kitchen Garden Seeds](#) catalog from John Scheepers.
- Research how to care for three various plants you have. Here is a good start finding sources-the American Horticultural Society
- Research "how to prune (whatever you need to prune.)"
<https://ahsgardening.org/gardening-resources/societies-clubs-organizations/societies-by-plant-type/>
- Check on your stored bulbs, corms and tubers.
- Walk your garden checking for frost-heaved plants; gently stomp them back into the soil so their roots won't freeze.
- Gather your houseplants, put a rag in the bottom of the sink to catch soil, spray wash dust off of the plant leaves. If the plant is too big use a damp microfiber cloth to wash leaves. Don't do this to African violets-they don't like it. Don't do this to cacti-you won't like it. Mist houseplants frequently.
- Propagate new houseplants from cuttings now for Garden Club plant sale.
- Order your seeds and plants before the ones you want are gone.

FEBRUARY

- Order summer blooming bulbs.
- Get your soil tested. Rhode Islander use University of [Massachusetts Soil Testing](#)
- Make amendments to the soil as suggested by test results.
- If your plant sale cuttings have good roots, pot them up.
- If you have a garage or basement out of the weather, spruce up garden art and furniture with new paint.
- Sharpen tools.
- Some seeds can be started indoors this early. Here is the link I like for seed planting, but enter YOUR zip code on the page. <https://www.almanac.com/gardening/planting-calendar/zipcode/02809>

MARCH

- Put your research to work and get pruning! **DON'T PRUNE SPRING FLOWERING TREES AND SHRUBS!** You'll cut the blossoms off. Wait to prune them until after they flower.
- Pot up all your nicely rooted cuttings and hit the thrift stores for some nice pots for them.
- Start seeds indoors.
- Seeds of cool season veggies may be planted directly in the garden when the temp reaches 55 to 65 degrees. (Buy yourself a nice soil thermometer.)