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## A TO-DO LIST FOR THE COLD CLIMATE GARDEN

In reading over the many emails I receive, I came across one that I thought would be worth sharing with all of you. It is from a free newsletter I have recommended in *Garden Basket* many times: *Linda at Garden Design*. This article is a To-Do-List for the Cold Climate Garden.



Now many of us, me included, wonder where the cold is on this New Year's Day 2022 with a temperature of 60 degrees, but I do have a feeling that the real winter is just around the corner ....maybe even next week! So here are some suggestions:

- **Protect plants**.....some of us have used burlap, particularly for our boxwood or other evergreen, or other covers to protect them from dehydrating. Extra insulation can be added by including material such as straw or shredded leaves inside the burlap or covers.



- **Pre-order your plants for spring**....pretty soon your mailboxes will be filled with catalogues...a perfect time to plan what you want to add to your garden for 2022. Think about drawing a diagram of your garden and adding spots where your new plants might go, or if you are not up to drawing, take a look at some of the pictures you might have taken this past season.

- Pay attention to your tools.....clean them, sharpen them, and oil them so you are ready for the new season.
- **Take a walk around your property looking for broken branches** and read up on pruning techniques and when is the best time to do winter pruning. Many trees and shrubs are best pruned in late winter ....think February, while they are still dormant.



- If you are into **seed starting**, order your seeds and supplies now and start sowing.....check out grow-lights and heated pads.
- **Keep feeding your birds**....but before you do, clean out those bird feeders....keep clean water in the bird bath and break off ice so the birds have a spot to drink.
- **Check for pests on your indoor plants**....white flies or aphids.....they take advantage of the winter to do their damage.

- **Bring your garden inside....**think amaryllis, paper-whites, forcing hyacinths.
- **Create a terrarium.....**TCGC has a workshop scheduled for February 8, fingers crossed, on *Gardening Under Glass*. You'll be hearing more about that later.

