



## Henderson County Master Gardeners Weekly News Article January 2, 2017

### January Garden To-Do List

by Lydia Holley

Do you make garden resolutions? I do. However, I have to admit that, like many of my other resolutions, they do not always get successfully completed. Still, I find that making a resolution at least gets me off to a good start each year.

Do you want a good start on your garden chores this year? Start this month. January does not seem like the typical month for gardening, but there are actually several things you can do in the garden now.



The season for planting vegetables will soon be at hand, so clean out your vegetable beds of any dead plants or weeds. After your vegetable beds are cleaned out, you can plant sweet peas (English peas) during the month of January or the first part of February.

Keep your frost cover handy, as I am certain there will be freezing weather ahead of us and you will want to keep tender plants protected. You can also start seeds indoors for broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, and tomatoes.

If your soil test indicates that you need fertilizer, it is fine to go ahead now and put out a slow-release fertilizer, manure or compost. Your soil should be tested every three years. This way, you will be adding only the nutrients your plants need. Soil test kits are available from Henderson County Master Gardeners at local booth events, or from the County Extension Office.

If you are interested in applying pre-emergents to prevent weed seeds from germinating, they can be applied this month also. Be certain to read the label and apply as indicated.

There will be days when the weather is nice enough to go outside and really work in the garden. Although it is early, many plants can be transplanted while they are dormant. When transplanting, be certain to move as big a root ball as possible and to keep the plant adequately watered.

Bare root plants can also be purchased and planted now or next month. You will want to ideally plant them before new growth begins showing. Soak your bare root plants' roots for several hours or overnight before planting, and keep them well watered. If you can not get them into the ground this early, plant them in containers and transplant them later.

Take advantage of rainy days to clean and sharpen your garden tools. You will need your pruners next month.

For more information, call 903-675-6130, email [hendersonCMGA@gmail.com](mailto:hendersonCMGA@gmail.com) or visit [www.henderson-co-tx-mg.org](http://www.henderson-co-tx-mg.org).