

Cynthia Brian's Garden Guide for January

- **COLLECTION** of your holiday trees is scheduled for the same day as your garbage pickup, but with a separate truck. Cut your tree in half or in pieces and place it in the yard waste cart or call (925) 935-8900 for an on-call recycling. Remove lights, ornaments, tinsel and trimmings. Leave trees at curbside. Cut all trees that are 10 feet or over in half. Do not leave stands. Also, no artificial or flocked trees will be collected as all trees are destined for composting.
- **DEEP ROOT FEED** your crape myrtles, magnolia, and Japanese maple trees if you have not already done this to give them a jump on spring.
- **PLANT** poinsettias outside as color accents. If you have several poinsettias, plant them along a pathway. Most will eventually die, but they will brighten the dark January days.
- **BARE ROOT** season is upon us. Fruit trees, berry bushes, perennials, vines and roses are readily available at your local garden centers and favorite nurseries.
- **TUNE** in to StarStyle® Radio from 4 to 5 p.m. Dec. 30 for a full hour of live garden talk with Britain's premiere rose expert from David Austin Roses. This program offers expert advice on bare root plantings as well as general rose care. Go to [www.StarStyleRadio.net](http://starstyleradio.net) and click on Dec. 30 or go to the direct link at http://starstyleradio.net/Starstyle_Radio/Entries/2015/12/30_Toast_the_New_Year_with_David_Austin_Roses.html.
- **HEAVY PRUNE** your roses any time this month. Remove any dead wood or diseased parts. Do not put these in the compost pile.
- **CUT** a bouquet of narcissus to perfume your bedrooms and baths.
- **SPRAY** an application of sulfur or organic dormant spray on fruit trees to kill overwintering insects.
- **MOVE** living Christmas trees outside. They can be planted in an area where they may grow to their natural height, or keep them in a container for next year.
- **MULCH** your flowerbeds with three inches of organic matter.
- **RAKE** the remaining fallen leaves from lawns to allow your grass to breathe. No need to mow in the winter.
- **CELEBRATE** the 12th day of Christmas on Jan. 6, known as the Epiphany and Three Wise Kings Day, by surprising your children with fresh oranges and tangerines plucked from your tree. It has been a family custom in our household for over a century. You can read my story in my book, *Be the Star You Are!* 99 Gifts for Living, Loving, Laughing, and Learning to Make a Difference available at <http://starstyleradio.net/Store.html>.
- **WRITE** in a garden journal starting this week or chronicle your garden escapades on your computer.
- **ADD** statuary to your landscape to bring art into the garden.
- **DIVIDE** and replant day lilies. All American Daylilies offer many different colors and varieties for all locations.
- **DONATE** at PayPal Giving Fund, which adds 1 percent to every contribution, and get that end of year tax write-off. Everyone wins. <http://bit.ly/1YuK44k>

May peace be with you as you make the best of this season. Welcome to a bright new shiny year, each day anew!



Toadstools sprout in a potted plant during the darkest night hours.



Statuary adds artistic bling to your landscape.