

## December Gardening Guide

### Cleaning the Mess:

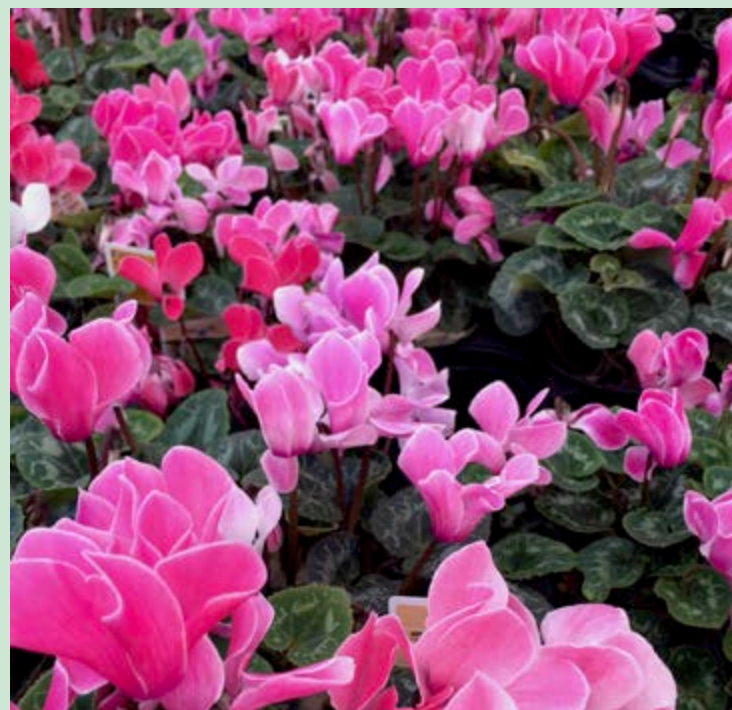
The smells associated with skunks, mice, and rats are nauseating. Their feces and nests could be a danger to your health. When we see droppings our first impulse is to grab a broom or vacuum. DON'T! Sweeping and vacuuming releases virus particles into the air. Inhalation can result in infecting the person with the viruses. Here's how to clean the feces, nesting areas, and dead animals.

- Wear gloves, a mask and goggles.
- Spray the area with Lysol or a disinfectant made with a strong solution of bleach.
- After five or minutes, wipe up the area with paper towels or rags you will toss.
- Pick up a dead rodent with a shovel.
- Spray more of the bleach solution to sanitize the area.
- Put all of the waste materials, rags, dead rodents and paper towels in a plastic bag.
- Seal the bag in another plastic bag and put in the outside garbage can.
- Wash your gloved hands thoroughly.
- Remove the gloves and mask, put in a plastic bag, seal, and put in the outside garbage can.
- Wash your un-gloved hands and your goggles with soap and warm water.
- NEVER vacuum, sweep, or blow out areas that harbor contaminants that could become airborne.

### Getting Help:

If you have a problem with rodents or skunks, contact Vector Control at 925-771-6142. The service is free and you'll be able to troubleshoot your issues. They will also pick up skunks that have been trapped.

There is nothing beautiful about pests finding shelter in our homes and gardens but this month does bring beauty to our doorsteps.



Who wouldn't love these hot pink cyclamen?



Yellow mums offer a sunshine welcome.



Lic.: #611120

Family owned in  
Moraga since 1987



Your friendly neighborhood  
arborists Darren and Lew Edwards

## WINTER TREE TIPS

Winter brings cold and rainy weather. "While many trees will be dormant in the winter, exposure to the tough conditions can cause them major stress," says Darren Edwards, Certified Arborist with Advance Tree Service. "Minimize that stress by helping your trees through the cold months. If you take care of your trees in the winter, you will be rewarded in the spring."

Winter can be a good time for pruning most trees, while they are dormant, and pines should only be pruned in the winter months. Removal of large, dead, broken, poorly positioned limbs and corrective pruning can minimize winter storm damage, and maximize optimal spring growth.

So don't wait until it's too late, call your local Arborist at Advance Tree Service and Landscaping to help you with your winter pruning.

Advance Tree Service

Your Authority on Trees and Landscape.



**925-376-6528**

**advancetree@sbcglobal.net www.advancetree.com**