

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for December

- **FERTILIZE** trees, shrubs, and ground covers.
- **APPLY** snail bait to areas where slugs and snails do damage.
- **SPREAD** elemental sulfur to citrus, azalea, rhododendron, camellia, and hydrangea to lower the soil PH.
- **DEEP** feed smaller shrubs to accelerate growth in the gaps of hedges.
- **ADD** a swath of fluorescent red, white or pink cyclamen to add pops of color to the winter landscape.
- **DEADHEAD** roses to extend blooming until heavy pruning in January or if you prefer, allow the rosehips to form. Rosehips are a source of vitamin C and can be harvested for tea.
- **STUFF** stockings with gardening goodies including a hand trowel, gloves, seeds and a garden guide. "Growing with the Goddess Gardener" offers 12 months of helpful advice and comes with free seed packets and a relaxing CD. www.CynthiaBrian.com/online-store
- **CUT** branches of berries from heavenly bamboo, cotoneaster, holly, or pyracantha to add to mantels and wreaths.
- **RAKE** leaves from lawns to keep them from matting.
- **MOVE** mower to a higher cutting level and don't mow when the ground is too wet.
- **PROTECT** tender plants from frost and freeze by moving potted plants inside or close to the house.
- **BUY** camellias now in the colors to suit your landscape décor while they are stocked as blooming specimens in nurseries.
- **CUT** back chrysanthemums to six inches after blooms fade.
- **PLANT** any remaining spring-blooming bulbs.
- **CELEBRATE** your home and garden for the holidays!



Hachiya persimmons are ripe to make a yummy Christmas pudding.



Incorporate the red berries of heavenly bamboo holiday wreaths and arrangements.



Golden Breath of Heaven (*coloeonem pulchrum*) translates to "pretty" in Latin will bear pink flowers.



The fluorescent red cyclamen illuminates any holiday landscape. Photos Cynthia Brian