

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for December

CHANGE out your current houseplants with colorful seasonal plants including cyclamen, paperwhites, and poinsettia.

ADD color spots of primroses to your front yard.

BUY deciduous trees that boast autumn hues now before they are barren. This is the best time of year to determine what showcase trees you want in your yard.

RAKE the fallen leaves on your lawn to add to your compost pile.

PRUNE roses for the final burst of December blooms before the January pruning begins.

BE eco-friendly and wrap gifts in used newspaper with twine. You'll save money while saving the earth.

COVER frost-tender plants with burlap or cloth to protect them from freeze and wind damage.

REPURPOSE Christmas cards into gift tags.

PLANT cover crops to enrich the soil over winter. Good choices include fava beans, alfalfa, clover, and mustard.

PURCHASE a living tree for your Hannukah Bush or Christmas tree.

DECORATE an indoor plant for the holidays.

ALLOW winter's coat of bright berries, rosehips, moss, and boughs to be the inspiration for your decorating.

CARE for the birds by keeping feeders clean and filled. Make sure to provide a water source and shelter.

ROLL in the leaves. Tap into your inner child. Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.



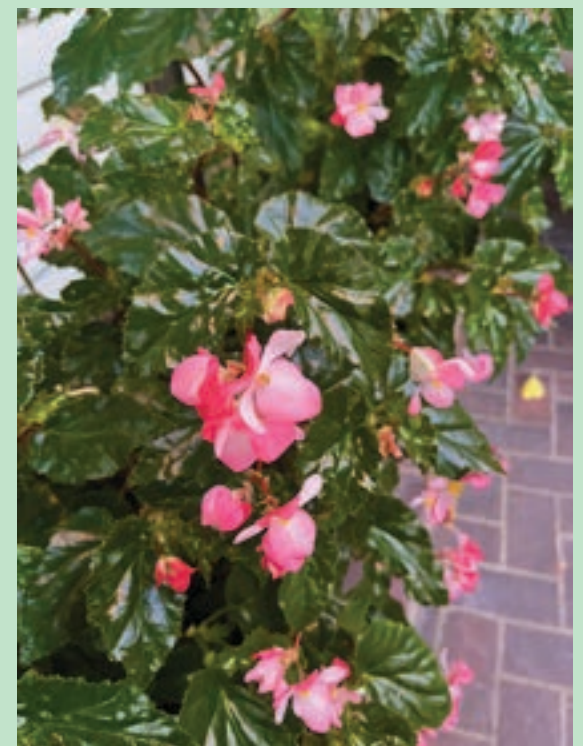
Crimson cestrum shines for December.



Primroses add needed color to the garden after the drizzle.



Aeonium succulent flanked by poinsettia.



Begonias blooming in a bed.

Photos Cynthia Brian