

# January Tips

**Winter is a great time to prune woody plants** of dead wood and crossed branches. Pruning will also allow more light to filter through surrounding plants.

**Take care of the birds.** Bird watching from the comfort of your home brightens many a winter day. It's OK to place feeders close to the house, but avoid placing them too close to large picture windows that can trick birds into colliding with the glass. Placing feeders near shrubs or evergreens gives birds the cover they need for protection from predators. Periodically discard any seed that may have crusted to a feeder, and wash the feeder with a 10% bleach solution, allowing it to dry completely before refilling.

**Check on stored tender bulbs, rhizomes, and tubers** every few weeks. Make sure they're not drying out or rotting in storage. Keep a thermometer near - temperatures should be between 35F and 50F. Too much warmth, in combination with too much moisture, will initiate early growth.

**Remove snow from evergreens.** Evergreens, such as arborvitae, yew, and boxwood, are easily damaged or misshaped by heavy, wet snow. Gently remove snow immediately after a fall (before it freezes onto branches) with your hand or soft broom. Limbs damaged by snow or ice should be pruned promptly to prevent bark from tearing.



Remember to keep your bird feeders full this winter! Heavy snow cover makes it harder for birds to find food. Birds must search for food from sunup to dusk to find enough food to maintain their body temperature.

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