

Live Christmas Tree:

- Remember that live balled and burlaped Christmas trees stay indoor no longer than 5-7days, depending on the indoor temperature. If you are not able to plant it right now, store the tree in a unheated garage or shed and keep it slightly moist until you are able to plant it.

Snow:

- Spray [snow casters](#), discharge chutes of snow blowers, and impellers of snowblowers with *Silicone Spray* so that the snow will slide off during its use.

Bulbs:

- Any unplanted flower bulbs that have not been planted should be planted in pots as soon as possible.

Trees:

- Do not prune crepe myrtles until early spring. And be prepared to feed them in early spring with Garden Trust.

Lawn:

- Make sure the pH of your lawn is 6.2-6.7. If you have not checked your lawn's pH yet, Winter is the ideal time to do so. Use an [electronic pH tester](#) to test your lawn's pH. Make sure you check on a day that the soil is not frozen and do not walk on frozen lawns.

Service / Winterize your lawn mower. (Consult your owners manual for maintenance procedure) If you do not want to do this yourself, bring your mower to a service shop for this to be done. You can also have a tune up and blade sharpening done at the same time if needed. Your mower will now be ready for next spring. (most service shops will not be busy this time of year, compared to early spring)

Remove any the remaining leaves from the lawn as soon as possible.

Houseplants:

- Weeping figs infected with scale, tropical hibiscus infected with aphids, and gardenia troubled with mealy bugs can be treated with [Bonide Systemic Houseplant Insect Control](#).
- Indications of scale on weeping figs are: sticky floor or carpet surrounding the plant or brown scabs on leaves and branches.
- [Bonide Systemic Houseplant Insect Control](#) does not work for mites on houseplants. Instead for mites, use [Summit Year Round Spray Oil](#). In severe cases, mites will cause webbing on the houseplants. In milder cases, the leaves will be speckled or yellowish. House plants that are susceptible to mites are: crotons, gardenias, scheffleras, prayer plants, Hawaiian tea plants, cast iron plants, and jasmine plants.
- Continue feeding your indoor plants with *Seamate*, especially holiday plants such as Christmas cactus, cyclamen, poinsettias, and orchids.

- Do not over water orchids. Keep orchids on the dry side. Use a [moisture meter](#) to measure the moisture of the soil deeper in the pot. Most orchids are killed by over watering. When an orchid is finished blooming, do not remove the entire flower stem. Cut the flower stem right below the last spent flower. New flower spikes will develop on the remaining flower stem.
- Amaryllis' flowers that are spent should be cut off. When all the flowers on the stalk are finished, remove the entire stem. A second or third stem should produce more flowers, depending on the bulb (a 3 year-old large bulb will likely have more flower stems). Do not cut the amaryllis leaves. Do not over water the amaryllis. Feed with [Seamate](#) with every watering. This year some people had poor blooms. This was caused by a poor quality of the bulbs and nothing to do with the care that was given.

Pests

Mice in garages, campers, and sheds can be eliminated with [havoc](#) (havoc will also kill rats). One week later replace the havoc with [Bonide mouse magic](#), to keep new rodents from moving in.

[Bird Bath heaters](#) can be should installed in the bird baths.

For the safe disposal of leftover pesticides visit [pestfacts.org](#)