

Gardener's Corner January 2024

A new year is here. While it's too early to garden, it isn't too soon to start planning for the spring. A good start is to look at those gardening catalogs coming in the mail and maybe even create a garden journal.

While you are thinking about spring, some information about creating those gardening resolutions can be found at **Garden Design** where there is a good list to help you get started. The article is entitled *New Year's Resolutions for Gardeners: 40+ inspiring ideas to kick off your gardening year*. You can find it at: https://www.gardendesign.com/holiday/new-years-resolutions.html?utm_source=article-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Resolutions-11-28-23

For those of you who want information about landscaping, there are some *Landscape Design* tips with videos on the **University of Minnesota Extension** website. Access the videos, *5 Considerations of Sustainable Landscape Design*, at: <https://extension.umn.edu/lawns-and-landscapes/landscape-design#videos%3A-the-5-considerations-of-sustainable-landscape-design-1561810>

Before you start planning for spring, however, there are some timely tasks and tips from the **Missouri Botanical Garden (MBG)** that can help protect existing trees, shrubs and ornamentals this winter. For example, allowing ice to melt off branches can help to ensure they won't break. Should a branch break, it is best to prune it promptly so that the bark doesn't tear.

As to houseplant care, make certain to keep the foliage of houseplant dust-free which will permit the leaves to obtain the greatest amount of light possible. Keeping houseplants on a tray of pebbles will help to increase humidity as will using a humidifier or keeping them closer to each other. Harsh chemicals can cause damage to some plants, i.e., spider plants, dracaenas, calatheas, and peace lilies. Using distilled or filtered water can help prevent this. Letting tap water sit for 24 hours can also allow harmful chemicals to evaporate.

Some programs of interest in January include the following:

January 10th, 2 p.m. – 3p.m. Presented by **MBG's EarthWays Center**, *Climate Change, Culture Change* explores facts, myths and opportunities related to Earth's climate, including key concepts of weather and climate, greenhouse gasses, carbon footprints, policy options and positive examples of how personal, business, and societal shifts are generating climate protection actions. Register at: <https://slcl.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=357351&df=list&backTo=List&startDate=2024/01/01&endDate=2024/01/31>

January 18th – 11 a.m. – noon. **The Smithsonian** presents *Garden Clubs – A Place for All*, a history of garden clubs. You can register here:

https://smithsonian.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1EXNEbbZSiKcu_CTHHIT5g#/registration

January 25th – 1p.m. – 2 p.m. The **Xerces Society** will present *In the Life of Beetles: Superstars of soil health, pollination, and more!* You can find the webinar here:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_PsFB9P-8SjiX09XVO3lo6w#/registration

You may also want to visit their YouTube channel for more presentations.