

SHEL MERDINE

Winter Gardening Checklist

- Create a winter urn with evergreen boughs, branches, colourful picks and fresh holiday greenery.
- Protect your concrete statuary and outdoor furniture with protective covers.
- Bring garden accents and ornaments into the garage.
- Add gardening supplies to your holiday wish list.
- Hang bird feeders and fill with seed. Hang suet feeders.
- Force indoor bulbs - paperwhites and amaryllis for holiday blooms.
- Request seed catalogues.
- Plan design changes for next season's garden.
- Install and hang holiday lights before the snow comes. Be careful - the heat from bulbs can damage evergreens if lights are placed directly upon them.
- Stock up on sidewalk grit.
Make sure your snow shovels and ice scrapers are ready.
- It's research season! Organize photos and notes about your garden, sign up for gardening blogs and/or gardening courses.
- Visit local conservatories, atriums and garden centres.
- Decorate the front door with wreaths, greenery and cedar garland.
- Take a look around your garden and make notes about what you need to plant in spring to add winter interest: shrubs with red twigs, berries, evergreen interest, etc.
- Shovel extra snow onto tender plants (such as zone 3 and 4 plants) to give them an extra blanket of warmth over winter.
- **Essential winter plants** include:
 - Bulb - Amaryllis
 - Shrub - Red Osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)
 - Tree - Tamarack (*Larix laricina*)



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