



Riverview Garden Club Helpful Hints



December 2019

Be kind to yourself this December. You have worked hard in your gardens this year and now it is time to relax and enjoy the season with family and friends. There is much to do between shopping, visiting, baking, and wrapping. Take the time to sit back with a cup of tea or coffee and dream about the things you may have wanted to do in your gardens, plants you may have wanted to buy, or new garden creations that you may have wanted to plant.

The catalogs will be coming in soon, so take the time and look at all the new cultivars that will be introduced—new colors, sizes, and resistance to insects and diseases. Don't forget about natives for our area, deer and rabbit tolerance, and those plants that are water tolerant. It could be a hot, dry summer, so if you don't have access to easy irrigation, think of plants that can withstand dry periods.

Remember to take the time to feed the birds, giving them fresh water too. Once the berries on bushes and trees are gone, they will be looking forward to varieties of bird seed, suet, and fresh pieces of cut up fruit. You can make your own suet with fat drippings, peanut butter, and bird seed mixed together.

Check your perennials occasionally this winter to see if they have been upheaved by the cold. If so, set them back in place and surround the plant with some wood chips, evergreen branches, or some other mulch to protect the root system.

Take some cuttings of forsythia or other flowering bushes and see if they will open in the house in water. I always have forsythia blooming in January and again in February.

Again, enjoy December and relax. Spring will be here before you know it!

--Sandy