

**Central Virginia Master Gardeners
December Gardening Chores**

*"I heard a bird sing
In the dark of December
A magical thing
And sweet to remember.*

*'We are nearer to Spring
Than we were in September,'
I heard a bird sing
In the dark of December."*

- Oliver Herford, *I Heard a Bird Sing*

Ornamental Garden	The Garden in December <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue to rake leaves and all other heavy matter off grass as it smothers very easily during extremely cold weather.• The planting of deciduous trees and shrubs may continue just as long as the weather permits.• Clean leaves and twigs from gutters and drains as they are likely to clog and freeze and sometimes result in destructive garden damage• There is still time to clean out the tangle of overgrown vines.• Clean and service lawn mower before winter storage• Clean and store garden tools.• Give the compost heap another turn with a fork and add a generous helping of hydrated lime• Do any filling or grading about the grounds so that loose soil can settle during the winter months.• Save ashes from open fires for use in the spring. They are a fertile source of potash an essential plant food.• If you are feeding birds, don't stop now. They become dependent upon the feed.
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