

Many of my tips for this month are repeats of previous years, but I thought they were worth mentioning again.

-I can't stress enough the importance of keeping the accumulated leaves off your lawns.

-Make sure you shut off your outside water source and drain the hoses.

-This is a good time to prune evergreens - hollies, spruces, pines, magnolias - use the cuttings for holiday decorations. If brought indoors, make sure you give them water. I have quite a few huge planters that I have no place to store, so I leave them filled with the old potting soil and "stuff" them with winter greens/berries. Most of the greens will stay decent for a couple of months.



-Christmas trees - set your cut tree against the warmest side of the house for a day or so before bringing it inside. This acclimates it to the warmer conditions of the house. Make sure to water it daily - or - try filling the tree stand with ice cubes - they will slowly melt.

-If you bring pinecones in for decorating, put them on a cookie sheet and bake them at 200 for a few hours to kill any unwanted insects.

-Use what you can from your yard for holiday decorating. Depending on your tastes, either leave them natural or try spray paint to achieve your wanted colors - silver, gold, white, red.

-Remove the foil before watering poinsettias - take them to the sink, water well, let the water drain out before returning the foil.



-Generally, indoor flowering plants need more water than foliage plants. Drain excess water from saucers.

Hope you all have a safe and joyous holiday season.