

Top Ten List – December

1. Apply **Kaput** for vole control and check all the packets daily. Keep replacing the bait before it is empty, the anti-coagulant agent is cumulative in the rodent's system and will lose its strength if application is not repeated. If bait is not taken within 2 or 3 days, choose a more favorable site to place the bait. Birdseed attracts voles and can even cause voles to migrate into gardens, so **restrict habitat** around your birdfeeder. Voles do not hibernate, and they reproduce every month of the year.
2. If we do not have any measurable precipitation in the form of **1" of rain or 12" of snow** within a 30 day period, you'll **need to water your plants**. This rule of thumb applies to all of the winter months!
3. Apply **Wilt Stop** once a month on broadleaf evergreens to keep the leaves shiny and plump.
4. **Attract birds** to your yard by offering a continuous supply of clean water and food. Use a birdbath deicer to keep water from freezing. Feed finches with **Niger Thistle Socks** and attract a wider variety of birds with **suet** and **seed** options.
5. Fertilize houseplants with **Maxsea** fertilizer. To control soil gnats, apply **Bonide Systemic Houseplant Insect Control** to your houseplants and lengthen the time between watering.
6. Moving your **Christmas cactus** around may make the buds and blooms fall off. If the temperature drops below 55 degrees in your home at night, you will experience bud drop also.
7. Keep your **poinsettias** out of cold drafts. Do not overwater and do not put them by the window.
8. **Dig a hole** for your living Christmas tree before Christmas and put the soil in the garage for ease of planting in January. Plant your tree on a warm, sunny day and water when planting. Remember to recycle your cut Christmas tree.
9. Now is the time to **pot up the bulbs** you have been storing in your refrigerator for forcing. Enjoy the delightful blooms and scents in February and March. We have paperwhites if you haven't picked them up yet.
10. **Apply Dr. Iron** to help acidify your soil and add richer green to your plant leaves. This sulfur counteracts the alkaline that is present in lower Johnson Lane, East Carson City, Dayton, and further East, Spanish Springs, Stead, Fernley, and Fallon areas. The iron helps to build a rich green color and better growth.