MONTHLY GARDEN CALENDAR

DECEMBER  (Holiday Season-Think Red and White)

Check hanging baskets daily

- **Maintenance/Prune**: Best not to trim trees—encourages new growth that may be damaged by cold weather. Apply 2-3” mulch. Palms are an important feature. If you see yellow or brown on new fronds emerging, make sure to fertilize quickly using a good quality palm fertilizer containing manganese.

- **Plant**: Lettuce, radishes, spinach, English peas, Brussels sprouts, onions, collards, cucumber, herbs, petunias, Alyssum, dianthus. Most perennials go dormant with cooler temperatures, amaranthus, aster, bachelor button, calendula, coleus, cockscob, gaillardia, impatiens, marigold, periwinkle, phlox, and salvia.

- **Vines/Ground Cover/Ornamental Grasses**: Yellow allamanda, bougainvillea, beach sunflowers, common lantana, Mexican heather, wedelia

- **Bulbs/Rhizomes/Tubers**: Amaryllis, kaffir lilies, gladiolus, narcissus, rain lilies, gingers, tuberous begonias

- **Gardens**: Drape your vegetables with a blanket or hay to protect from frost

- **Flowering**: Frost protect bird of paradise, blue daze, firespike

  Watch for: Mole crickets and grubs should be treated before extensive root pruning occurs.

- **Lawn**: Lawns go dormant. Use rye grass as a temporary winter lawn between November and mid April and spot treat areas with non-selective weed killers where the worst weeds are growing then re-sod or reseed those areas. Some week killers do not work well during cooler months and are best applied during the spring or early fall.

- **Shrubs**: Anise, feijoa, ligustrum, oleander, bibumum. Good time to relocate shrubs in landscape

- **Water**: Keep soil moist by checking every 3-4 days

- **Fertilize**: Skip feedings, except tropical and actively growing bulbs

- **Trees/Citrus**: Still a good time to plant bare-root trees. May need to protect trunks from cold.

- **Tropical/Temperate Fruits**: Many winter maturing fruit trees are available such as avocado, banana, loquat, papaya, black sapote, eggfruit, natal plum, jaboticaba, sapodilla, miracle fruit and muntingia.