

Clallam County Gardening Calendar



Winter Gardening

DECEMBER

- Remove annuals no longer producing. Clean up empty beds.
- Drain and coil hoses; empty and stack cages; and clean garden containers.
- Rake fallen apple and pear leaves to protect against scab. Do not compost infected leaves.
- Test garden soil. For instructions contact Clallam Conservation District (www.clallamcd.org). Based on results, apply lime or sulfur to adjust pH. Do not add other amendments at this time.
- After the first hard frost, add mulch around winter vegetables, strawberry plants, and root crops being stored in the ground.
- Clean, repair, and sharpen garden tools.

JANUARY

- Prune fruit trees and established blueberries while dormant. Do not prune during freezing weather.
- If aphids and mites have been a past problem, apply horticultural oil to fruit trees and blueberry bushes. Do not apply when plants are wet, temps are below 40°, or rain is likely in the next 24 hours.
- Plan vegetable garden rotation; order seeds.
- Consider building raised beds for easier gardening.

FEBRUARY

- Prune fruit trees and established blueberries while dormant. Do not prune in freezing weather.
- Thin second-year raspberry canes to 3 to 5 canes per square foot. Remove dead or damaged canes.
- Start selected cool-weather vegetables from seed indoors. (See recommended varieties on back.)
- Sow salad greens under cover for harvest in March.
- Mow or chop cover crops before they set seed. Allow leaves and stems to dry and dig in, if soil is dry enough to be worked.



WSU EXTENSION
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Locally recommended cool-weather vegetable varieties to start indoors in late winter:

- Cabbage – Caraflex, Golden Acre, Gonzales, Minuet, Parel, Tiara
- Kale – Beira Tronchuda, Curled Scot, Dazzling Blue, Nero Di Toscana, Improved Dwarf Siberian, Red Russian, Red Ursa, Redbor
- Leeks – King Richard, Pandora
- Lettuce – Buttercrunch, Continuity, Drunken Woman Frizzy Headed, Little Gem, Merlot, Outredgeous, Parris Island Cos, Red Sails, Salad Bowl
- Onions – Ailsa Craig, Barolo, Pacific Pearl, Patterson, Red Guardsman, Rossa di Milano

NOTE: The proper time to start seeds indoors is based on how quickly the seeds grow to a transplantable size and when the starts can be transplanted into the ground. As a result, timing will vary depending on the weather and specific garden conditions such as elevation, sun and wind exposure, and use of raised beds.

When starting seeds indoors, consider supplemental lighting; natural light on the windowsill or from a nearby window might not be sufficient to produce healthy starts. The duration of light exposure and recommended distance from seedlings depends on the bulb. Check recommendations for the specific bulb you are using. For florescent bulbs, suspend lights 2–3 inches above starts and run lights for 14–16 hours per day.

Plant Clinics

- During the winter, you can submit gardening questions to Clallam County Master Gardeners in the following ways:
- **Online:** extension.wsu.edu/clallam/mg/plant-clinics/
 - **By email:** mgplantclinic.clallam@gmail.com
 - **Via phone:** (360) 417-2514

3/11/2023

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