



***Are you dreaming of creating a beautiful cut flower garden this spring and want to get a jump start on tackling weeds? Do these things right now (January/February) to ensure your plot is ready.***

## **Mid Winter Garden Checklist:**

- Observe your yard for a bright, sunny spot out of the shade. Make sure the plot has access to water and is protected from snack-prone wildlife, such as deer and rabbits.
- Mark out your garden boundary with flags or stakes. We suggest starting small with an area around 4 feet wide by 6 feet long.
- Prepare the spot by removing grass, weeds, and/or debris.
- Lay down newspaper or thin cardboard over the entire area. Add a thick layer of mulched leaves (you can run over them with a lawnmower and spread them out) and a 3-6" layer of compost. Sprinkle an all-purpose fertilizer into the compost and mix in.
- We recommend covering the area with a tarp until you are ready to plant. (If you are not using a raised bed, make a boundary around your plot with landscape fabric at least 12" wide. Be sure to use stakes or heavy objects to keep the fabric in place during windy days.)
- It's also time to order seeds or make a list of plugs to plant in spring. If you've never grown a cutting garden, may we suggest you start with easy to sow seeds such as:

- Zinnias
- Cosmos
- Sunflowers
- Daisies
- Black-eyed Susans
- Herbs, such as basil, oregano and rosemary (for great foliage)

*Stay tuned for upcoming tips on seed starting and planting!*