

In the garden with Shobha Vanchiswar



Confused Snowdrops

What To Do This Month

1. Start praying for snow. A nice blanket of it is very much needed for the spring bulbs and perennials that require a proper state of dormancy in the cold.

Humans are not the only ones getting confused by this thus far mostly mild winter. I've already seen forsythia in bloom, daffodils and snowdrops happily piercing through the soil and pansies displaying their smiling faces to anybody who cares to look.

2. Once prayers have been answered, make sure all walkways, steps and paths are kept clear of ice and snow. Use something mild like sand to give traction.

3. Take a turn around the property and ensure that everything that needs securing (rose limbs and other climbers, gates) or protecting (evergreens like boxwood) are addressed accordingly.

4. Check on plants being overwintered indoors. Provide adequate water, light, warmth and humidity. Inspect for pests or disease. Act right away if treatment is required. Organic products please!

5. Gather up the seed and plant catalogs. Take some real time to plan for the seasons ahead. Design new beds, determine which plants are needed and make a list of all the requirements to get things ready as soon as the ground thaws in spring.

6. Order plants and seeds. The plants will arrive closer to planting time. But prepare to start seeds indoors as appropriate. Purchase whatever is needed such as seed trays, soil etc.

7. Keep yourself inspired by visiting the conservatory at the New York Botanical Gardens.

8. Pamper yourself by putting feet up for hours at length. Spring will be here all too soon and you want to be ready and willing.

9. In that same vein, do plenty of reading in winter as time to read is always short when garden chores seem endless.

My daffodils are emerging too...can't remember if I've ever seen them this early.
By Nancy King on 01/15/2012 at 12:22 pm