

# What to do in the Rockies

## January

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### CONTROL PESTS

Spray dormant oil on fruit trees and ornamental woody plants to destroy larvae and eggs of aphids, codling moths, mealybugs, red spider mites, scales, and whiteflies. Always test evergreens for discoloration by first spraying a small, inconspicuous area.



**IRRIGATION** Water whenever snow cover is absent. To prevent freeze damage to hoses and sprinklers, drain them and then store inside between waterings.

### PATHS

Assess garden walkways to determine if they're wide enough for people, mowers, and other equipment; if edging is needed; and if surfaces are stable underfoot. Make improvements as soon as the ground thaws.

### Rinse birdbaths and refill with fresh water every day.

### ROSE-PRUNING GLOVES

We love the new elbow-length, thorn-resistant Gauntlet Gloves from Foxgloves (\$35; [foxglovesinc.com](http://foxglovesinc.com)). They look and feel like leather but are made of lightweight, sturdy synthetic material and are machine-washable.



### Vegetables

Plan ahead and order seeds now. New and available only online from Botanical Interests ([botanicalinterests.com](http://botanicalinterests.com)) are more than 20 seed collections, including Cuisine of Asia, Italian Kitchen, and Luck o' the Irish.



### Garden checklist

### Propagate African violets

Fill a small pot with moist seed-starting mix. Cut off a healthy, medium-size leaf with an inch of stem; insert the end into the soil. Cover with a resealable plastic bag (keep soil moist). Roots will form in 4 to 6 weeks.

### CLEAN FLAGSTONE

It discolors over time. On a day when temperatures remain above freezing, spray a small area with a bleach-based household cleaner, then scrub with a stiff brush. When rinsing, dilute runoff thoroughly to prevent damage to nearby plants.

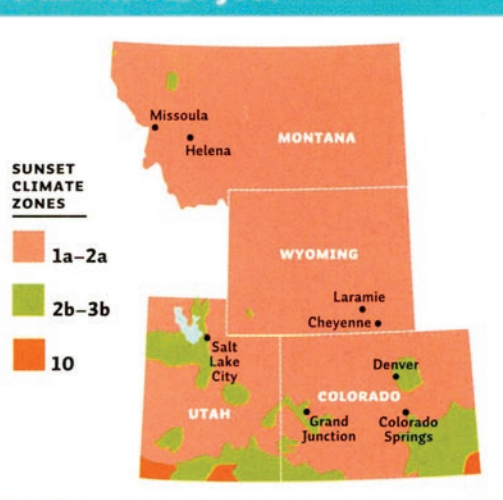
### FREE MULCH

Arrange to collect neighbors' discarded Christmas trees. Remove branches and layer them over beds to keep loose mulch like leaves and straw from blowing away.

### DEAD TREES

Remove them when the ground is frozen to keep tree crews and equipment from compacting the soil. Avoid the expense and hassle of stump removal and instead leave several feet of the trunk in place as a post for a birdbath, birdhouse, or garden sculpture.

### What zone are you?



**CHOOSE PLANTS AND LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR ZONE:**  
[sunset.com/plantfinder](http://sunset.com/plantfinder)