



LANDSCAPE CALENDAR
**OUTDOOR
LIVING**

WISH YOU WERE HERE!

POSTCARDS FROM A

Winter FLORIDA Garden

By Jon George



GARDENING MADE EASY DURING THE HOLIDAYS

While most of the country is shivering from cold and snow, we are gearing up for the best planting season of the year. Trees, shrubs and flowering perennials installed now do not suffer transplant shock like they would in warmer weather and require a fraction of the water to get established. So consider planting a tree as a gift this season or adding that special plant you've had your eye on.

Hot pink snapdragons and Icelandic poppies liven up this winter garden in historic Gainesville (pictured left) featuring a newly planted date palm and cycads.



GARDEN IDEA #1 Deck the Halls

Santa is going tropical this year. Try this idea for a festive holiday touch instead of the traditional tree. We mounted bromeliads with coconut fiber cloth holding potting soil in the pockets of this sable palm (left). Tropical bromeliads grow on tree branches in their native rainforests, often needing little soil if humidity is abundant. These beauties will thrive with regular watering and a protected southern exposure. In this case overhead palm fronds and a mature oak canopy provide built-in protection from frosts.

GARDEN IDEA #2 Cool Season Classics

Nothing says vintage Florida garden like winter blooming camellias. Some look like hibiscus flowers with flaring single petals and open stamens. Others more resemble peonies with layer after layer of petals that open slowly. Try planting camellias in partial shade with rich, moist soil and plenty of room to grow. Many reach heights of ten feet or more after decades of growth.

This Yuletide camellia, (above) starts blooming in early December.



GARDEN IDEA #3 Winter Wonderland

Make Frosty jealous with this mix of annuals sure to bloom all season. Snowy white petunias planted with sweet alyssum and dusty miller (above) simulate a scene from further north (without shoveling the driveway).

Plant these now for blooms from winter to spring: carnations, cabbage, delphiniums, dianthus, English daisies, foxglove, hollyhocks, lobelia, pansies, stock, violas and wallflowers. Edibles to plant now – broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, celery, kale, lettuce, most berries and fruit trees, parsley, thyme, rosemary and chives.

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not your typical landscape



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