



On the Twelfth Day of Christmas my true love sent to me:
 Twelve sprinklers sprinkling
 Eleven planters planting
 Ten shears a shearing
 Nine roses blooming
 Eight ferns unfurling
 Seven bees a buzzing
 Six worms a wriggling
 Five golden beans
 Four bags of soil
 Three compost bins
 Two pots of herbs And a poinsettia in a pear tree

DECEMBER 2020: In the Garden with Irene Virag

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Today is my birthday. And you, my loyal friends, are among my best presents.	2 Finish cleaning up the garden. Leave sedums and ornamental grasses to catch the snow.	3 Get the last batch of spring-blooming bulbs planted before winter hardens the soil.	4 Pre-register to visit the decked-out mansion at Planting Fields and admire the camellias.	5 Pick and freeze the last of the parsley for soups and stews. Harvest remaining leeks.
6 Give your cut Christmas tree a good shake before buying it. If needles fall, it may be dry.	7 Dig a pea trench in a warm spot in the garden. Fill with straw till it's time to plant in March.	8 Get last year's amaryllis blooming with fresh potting soil and indirect light. Or start a new one.	9 Turn the soil in the garden just before a hard frost so hibernating insects get blasted by cold.	10 Chanukah starts at sundown. Legend says the menorah was inspired by <i>Salvia judaica</i> .	11 Gather holly boughs, blue spruce and juniper to make this a truly "green" holiday.	12 Give someone you love a poinsettia. After all, it's National Poinsettia Day. No kidding.
13 Keep your own poinsettias merry & bright with 70-degree days and 60-degree nights.	14 Tuck roses in by mounding 10 inches of soil around the base to coddle the bud union.	15 Water evergreens till the ground freezes. Their leaves still transpire on sunny days.	16 Move paperwhites to a cool spot out of direct sun so they don't open too soon.	17 Set up a floating de-icer in your koi pond to keep the water flowing and the fish breathing.	18 Water the Christmas tree or it will form a seal that stops the absorption of moisture.	19 Mist cut evergreen boughs and keep them in the garage at night so they'll last longer.
20 Spray broadleaf evergreens with anti-desiccant as long as it's at least 40 degrees outside.	21 Save wrapping paper cylinders to cut up and use as collars to protect tomatoes from cutworms.	22 Check forced bulbs. If you see roots and shoots, put them in a warm spot. Water, fertilize.	23 Put up a bird feeder but keep it out of garden beds where dropped seeds may germinate.	24 Get larkspur and fragrant sweet peas going indoors so they'll flower in April.	25 Merry Merry Christmas. Hope Santa brings you a few shiny new garden tools.	26 Sweep snow from evergreens so branches don't break. Be gentle. Let ice melt naturally.
27 Mulch perennial beds to protect plants from winter thaws. But only if the ground's frozen.	28 Let cyclamens chill out. They like cool nights. Water from the bottom so the crown stays dry.	29 Shower houseplants to wash away whiteflies and spider mites before they cause real trouble.	30 Check stored dahlias, cannas and gladioli. Sprinkle with water so they don't dry out.	31 Count down to 2021. May the coming year bring you all Gardens of Health and Joy.		Drop me a line: Email: irenevirag@verizon.net 1019 Ft Salonga Rd. Suite 10 - # 302 Northport, NY 11768