



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 2017: In the Garden with Irene Virag

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31 Count down to 2018. May the coming year bring you Gardens of Health and Joy.	Drop me a line: Email: irene@irenevirag.com 1019 Ft Salonga Rd. Suite 10 – # 302 Northport, NY 11768				1 It's my birthday. And you, my loyal readers, are my best presents.	2 Finish cleaning up the garden. Leave sedums and ornamental grasses to catch the snow.
3 Give your cut Christmas tree a good shake before buying it. If needles fall, it may be dry.	4 Pot up more paperwhites to perfume the winter months. Toss them after they bloom.	5 Get last year's amaryllis blooming with fresh potting soil and indirect light. Or start a new one.	6 Gather holly boughs, blue spruce and juniper to make this a truly "green" holiday.	7 Dig a pea trench in a warm spot in the garden. Fill with straw till its time to plant in March.	8 Clean, sharpen and oil garden tools. Keep pruners and loppers handy for winter jobs.	9 Pick and freeze the last of the parsley for soups and stews. Harvest remaining leeks.
10 Get all those spring-blooming bulbs planted already. Do it before the ground freezes.	11 Buy someone you love a poinsettia. Tomorrow is National Poinsettia Day.	12 Chanukah starts at sundown. Legend says the menorah was inspired by <i>Salvia judaica</i> .	13 Tuck roses in by mounding 10 inches of soil around the base to coddle the bud union.	14 Place a floating de-icer in your pond to keep the water flowing and the fish breathing.	15 Keep poinsettias happy with 70-degree days and 60-degree nights. Avoid drafts and overwatering.	16 Turn the soil in the garden before a hard frost so hibernating insects get blasted by cold.
17 Put up a bird feeder but keep it out of garden beds where dropped seeds may germinate.	18 Mist cut evergreens daily and put them in the garage at night so they'll last longer.	19 Check forced bulbs. If you see roots and shoots, put them in a warm spot. Water, fertilize.	20 Get larkspur and fragrant sweet peas going indoors so they'll flower in April.	21 Cut wrapping paper cylinders into sections. Save to use as collars to protect tomatoes	22 Let cyclamens chill out. They like cool nights. Water from the bottom so the crown stays dry.	23 Mulch perennial beds, but only if the ground is frozen. Read today's blog to find out why.
24 Water the Christmas tree or it will form a seal that stops the absorption of moisture.	25 Merry Christmas. Hope Santa brought you some shiny new garden tools.	26 Spray broadleaf evergreens with antidesiccant as long as it's at least 40 degrees outside.	27 Sweep snow from evergreens so branches don't break from the weight. But do it gently.	28 Shower houseplants to wash away whiteflies and spider mites before they cause real trouble.	29 Check stored dahlias and cannas. Toss mushy ones. Sprinkle with water if dry.	30 Think spring. Start Easter lilies indoors to bloom in April. Easter is exactly four months away.