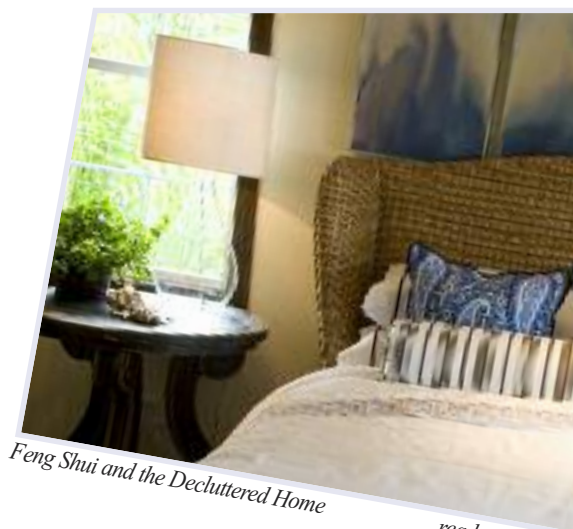


# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

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Feng Shui and the Decluttered Home

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## Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for January

By Cynthia Brian

*"Winter, a lingering season, is a time to gather golden moments, embark upon a sentimental journey, and enjoy every idle hour." –John Boswell*

**A**s an extreme gardener and sun worshiper, winter is most definitely my least favorite season. After the hoopla of the holidays and the extravagance of a New Year's celebration, January demands reflection, re-interpretation, and relaxation. With the glorious rain we experienced in December, the three creeks on my property are rushing, offering a meditative sound that soothes my soul. The hills are greening, daffodils are blooming, mushrooms are sprouting, and branches are bare. As tempted as you may be to gather wild mushrooms, refrain from doing so unless you are with an expert mycologist or the outcome could be dire. With the exception of pruning, spraying, and weeding, we have very little to do in our gardens this first month of the year. That suits me just fine as I am busy catching up and voting on the numerous nominated films and TV series in the upcoming 21st Screen Actors Guild Awards to be simulcast live coast to coast on TNT and TBS at 5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 25. If I'm not gardening, movies on the big screen entertain and intrigue me, offering a winter respite from the travails of the yard. This is also my special time to analyze what I did right and wrong in the past year, peruse seed catalogues, dream about creative new outdoor spaces, set goals for the new year (maybe I'll study edible fungi), and cook with fruits and vegetables that I froze this past summer in anticipation of this downtime. Embark upon your sentimental journey to enjoy the slow pace of January.

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What a lovely surprise to see Jade in bloom in the winter.

Photos Cynthia Brian