



Seed and bare-root catalogs are the ideal cure for winter blues. And nurseries are starting to receive their bare root fruit trees and berries. Now is a good time to order seed potatoes, asparagus and artichokes.

VEGETABLES:

Sheet compost your vegetable beds to help keep weeds down and add nutrients. If it's raining, make a cup of coffee and order your seeds from catalogs. Then read a trashy novel. You may still be harvesting from fall-planted veggies, but any open beds can be sown with:

- Onion; Leeks (from seed) (Onions from sets aren't recommended in the Bay Area.)
- Collards (set plants)
- Fava Beans
- Rhubarb; Artichokes (last month to plant sets) and Shallots (from sets)

Meanwhile, plant these vegetables inside for transplanting outdoors in about two months:

- Broccoli, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Collards; Parsley, Chayote,

FRUIT TREES

January is the peak time for dormant pruning of deciduous fruit trees—with the exception of apricots, which should be done after the harvest in August. Make sure you've cleaned up all the fallen leaves and fruit, especially around apples and pears, and prune out any fireblight damage, disinfecting your clippers after each cut. You can spray with a sulfur/dormant oil mix to control codling moth, aphids and powdery mildew, but don't spray if rain is likely within two days. Repeat every 10 days or until the 'petal-fall' stage.

QUALITY TIME

You're not doing *chores*! You're spending *quality time* in your garden! Fruit trees will appreciate a layer of hot compost around them, as you spread the compost and work it into the soil pull up any weeds that have appeared. Bait for snails using 'Sluggo' and remove any snail 'condos'—especially around strap-leafed plants such as Agapanthus.

HARVEST FROM THE GARDEN

- Beets and Carrots from October-sown seeds
- "Swiss Army Chard" made it through the cold snap; plenty of sorrel
- Meyer Lemons and Satsuma Mandarin Oranges are ripening now.

