

12 New Year's Resolutions for Gardeners

Based on an article from Horticulture Magazine Dec. 2017 by Patty Craft with additions by Ann Wetzel

Resolution #1 Make a change, try something different, Try a new variety for 2024 or an heirloom. Challenge yourself! Watch for the upcoming list of new introductions for 2024!

Resolution #2 Add a native species to your garden designing with native plants benefits you, the earth and the wildlife. Months of colorful blooms, less water usage, increased wildlife in your garden.

Resolution #3 Plant something with a child! Pass the love of gardening onto the next generation. Get them up, out and away from the computer/video games and they can gain an appreciation for the natural world.

Resolution #4 Volunteer to help in a public garden Volunteers are the driving force behind many of the gardens that beautify our public areas. Make a resolution this year to volunteer in your local conservatory, cemetery, botanical garden or museum landscape.

Resolution #5 Learn something, teach something. As we know there is always something more to learn in the world of gardening. We learn something new at every LIHS meeting, pass on that learning to others. What can be just as valuable as learning, is teaching someone else a new trick or two. Send your tips & tricks to me at lihorticuralsociety@gmail.com and I will publish them in the newsletter or do a tutorial about it!

Resolution #6 Plant a food you haven't tried before. Whether it's a veggie, fruit or herb, resolve to grow a new type of food in your garden this year. Variety is the spice of life!

Resolution #7 Treat yourself to a good gardening book. It's a great way to relax in the winter months. It doesn't have to be non-fiction either; Mary Freeman's Gardening Mystery Series features Rachel O'Connor, an Oregonian

landscaper and amateur sleuth. *Garden Spells & Frist Frost* by Sarah Addison Allen both are great series and a lot of fun!

Resolution #8 Go on a gardening excursion. Broaden your horizons with a trip to a local botanical garden or arboretum this year. Check out our list of Long Island Public Gardens: <https://www.lihort.org/li-public-gardens>.

Resolution #9 Start something from seed. It's especially rewarding to grow plants from seed. You get to appreciate the whole process from beginning to end. Don't forget to collect those seeds in the fall!

Resolution #10 Invite people over to spend time in your garden. We love the community aspect of gardening. Beautiful gardens are something to be shared, so resolve to have a gardening get-together at least once this year. LIHS open gardens are a great way to share your garden with other members!

Resolution #11 Start a garden journal. Record successes and failures, what you loved and what you didn't. Take photos to look back upon during next winter so you can better plant for the following spring!

Resolution #12- Clean out the Shed/Garage- Winter or Spring cleaning, everyone has this problem, piled up garden materials that have been forgotten about and need to be sorted. Go through garden chemicals, see what needs to be discarded (make sure to comply with local ordinances regarding disposal of chemicals), Clean-up your tools and get them ready for spring. See what needs replacing or fixing.

