

**February 2011**

## **Country Walk Gardening**



**“Look into the garden,  
where the grass was green;  
covered by the snowflakes,  
not a blade is seen.  
Now the bare black bushes  
all look soft and white.  
Every twig in laden- white  
such a pretty sight!”**

**Well, I hope you all have recovered from the great snowstorm by now. It was beautiful to see but oh how it shut us down! Many plants have suffered the extreme cold and I’m hoping that they will survive. But without some tender care we may loose some. So, our work is cut out for us.**

**Its time to prepare beds for bare-root roses that will be arriving in nurseries soon. Dig an area four feet wide and about twelve inches deep for each rose plant. Add plenty of soil conditioner to the soil. If there are any limbs that need to be cut from your trees, now is the time to ribbon them while they can be seen. Step back, take another look before cutting them off. Prune Buford holly, fig, apple, pear, and grape vines. Check the ground to see if it is dry, till the soil for a vegetable garden. This will eliminate lots of insects, weeds and nematodes.**

**Small leafless shrubs and trees can be transplanted easily now on a warm day if the ground is not frozen. Chop English ivy, bamboo, and kudzu to the ground, and prune pampas grass down to 12 inches tall. Make sure to use gloves to pull out the dead stems in the clumps. Remember to water window boxes, container plants, pansies, and your ornamental kale after a hard freeze. Plant pansies and English daisies in a sunny bed and larger pots to make an impact in your landscape.**

**If your houseplants have spider mites, etc. spray with insecticidal soap on the undersides of the leaves and remember to half turn them so they grow straight. Watch for brown edges on houseplant leaves. Mist leaves twice a day and keep away from drafty areas.**

**Happy gardening,  
Ann**