**VELMA SEZ FOR JANUARY**

Prune evergreen shrubs and trees if they look straggly or lopsided. Shape them now before new growth starts. Arborvitae can stand heavy shearing. When tips of juniper branches are cut back to the first fork each year, they will develop into thick well-shaped plants. Cut them back further if necessary. Try to conceal the cut by surrounding foliage.

Prune all berry vines that had berries on them last year. If you want to move plants, now is the time to do it. Leave as much soil as possible around evergreens’ roots. Deciduous plants can be moved bare root. Don’t let plants dry out after transplanting.

Fertilize irises this month and clean up any dead foliage. Wait until frost season has passed before cutting away frost-damaged parts of plants. This protects the lower parts of the plants. Prune away the damaged parts when you see new growth.

If you soil is workable, you can still set out calendula, Iceland poppies, pansies, primroses, snapdragons stocks, violas, delphinium, coral bells, candytuft, columbine, and Shasta daisy. You can plant seeds of larkspur, four o’ clocks, hollyhock, wildflowers, and sweet peas. If you have older snapdragons, you can cut them back halfway and lightly fertilize. When the days begin to lengthen, vigorous new growth will come up below the cut and make fins spring blooms.

When planting trees or shrubs from a can, pot, or burlap bag, leave some of the original soil on the roots. Many plants will not root readily from one soil to another. To remove some soil, slosh the roots with water. Don’t lose all of the old soil. With 6 packs, shake a little of the old soil off so some roots will be in new soil when planted.

For earwigs, place a tuna can with 1-2 T. of oil in it where ear wigs hangout at night. Next morning dump them out, preferably in the trash. Prune crepe myrtle back as it blooms on this year’s growth. Butterfly bush may be pruned down to about 18 inches to make nice stems of flowers.