December is the perfect time to plan changes for next year

Think ahead to 2015 for new opportunities to grow as a gardener

By Danae Wolfe
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As 2014 comes to a close and the impending birth of my son quickly approaches, I can’t help but think about all the wonderful things 2015 is sure to bring.

Sleepless nights aside, I have so many big plans for next year. From awesome Ohio State University Extension and Summit County Master Gardener programing, to life as a new parent, 2015 is sure to be great!

If you’re like me, you probably have a few ideas for some changes you’d like to make in 2015. Many people call these New Year’s resolutions. From the typical weight loss and smoking cessation resolutions to broader-spanning “I promise to be a happier person,” resolutions can be an inspirational way to start the New Year.

For 2015, my New Year’s resolutions revolve around my passion for horticulture and the natural world. I have so much to learn about so many different things, and I hope that the effort to increase my own knowledge will allow me to be a more effective educator. I have three resolutions I’m hoping to stick to next year.

Learn more

Much of my job entails identifying plants and insects and diagnosing plant pests and diseases.

I love the challenge this brings, but I’ll admit, I have much to learn. I often spend loads of time researching a problem before offering an answer. Meanwhile, my Master Gardener volunteers are quick to provide an ID or diagnosis (they know so much!).

I’d like to increase my confidence by identifying and researching one new plant disease or insect pest each week.

Take more outdoor photos

My passion for macro nature photography has been growing significantly over the last several years.

I love using my photography to teach the public about the natural world, but I’m often too busy to make it outside on a regular basis with my camera.

In 2015, I’d like to make a bigger effort to get outside at least once a week to find and photograph the amazing things that happen in our gardens. Additionally, I need to also remember to throw my camera in my car so I’m always ready for a great shot!

Pass on my love of nature

One of things I’m most excited about in 2015 is of course, having a new son.

My husband and I have spent many evenings talking about how excited we are to teach our child all about nature. My last resolution is to ensure that my son will be better at identifying invasive plants and insects than he will be at identifying the latest cartoon characters.

We plan to start our family nature exploration from a very early age and we hope this will foster a lifelong sense of environmental appreciation and stewardship.

Gardening resolutions

What are your New Year’s resolutions for 2015? From keeping your garden weed-free to using fewer invasive ornamentals in your landscape, there are many great resolutions you can achieve next year.

I encourage you to think about how you can become a better gardener. What can you change or improve? Most of all think about what you’re passionate about and let that lead your resolutions.

As you start to think about what 2015 has in store, I send you many warm wishes for a safe and happy holiday season.

I hope you’re all as excited about 2015 as I am.

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