January Hort Report

The first garden I planted when I moved to my new home thirty years ago was The Vegetable Garden. A friend had given me raspberry canes, and I needed a place to put them! It is my only garden in full sun. After a few years it became more of a cut flower garden, then a Dahlia garden. It had a ‘holding’ spot for homeless bushes and trees, and then I dug a pond into the end of one row. My pond has goldfish and frogs, and makes me very happy. A few years ago, a friend offered to buy excess organic vegetables from me, so now it’s once again a full-time vegetable garden. I planted Scarlett Runner Beans just for this friend, but found I liked them, too, so she didn’t get them all. The beans grew way too tall, and will need a sturdier support next year. (Soraya got the Mesasequoia that was ‘on hold’.) Besides the spring planting, I decided to do a second planting of beans and greens in late July. The second planting of mustard greens, arugula, kale, and two varieties of lettuce was my best idea ever. Because of the mild winter so far, I had fresh greens up until a week ago! So, now it’s catalog time, and time to plan and buy seeds. All of you can grow vegetables, even if you don’t have much space. You can mix veggies into the flower beds, or if you have only a patio, you can grow them in pots. There are now cultivars grown specifically as ‘patio plants’. Growing from seed gives you the best variety, but every garden center has a variety of vegetable plants you can buy in May; so give it a try.