

Fall Gardening Checklist

- * Fall is a great time to plant! See our "Fall Color with Perennials" flyer for plant suggestions.
- * Sow or plant cold crops like Pansies, Violas, and Kale for fall, winter and spring color.
- * Sow perennial and biennial seeds early fall so they can establish and winter over for blooming next year.
- * Plan and purchase your spring bulb combinations; plant until the ground freezes. This goes for garlic too!
- * Layer small bulbs on top of larger varieties (Grape Hyacinth on Daffodils or Anemone blanda on Tulips).
- * Try new, deer resistant bulb varieties like Winter Aconite, Checkerbloom, Allium, or clay soil tolerant Camassia.
- * Apply Bulb-tone or Bone Meal to spring bulbs as you plant them.
- * Fill a container garden with spring bulbs, fall mums, kale, pansies, small evergreens, and ivy for 3 seasons of color.
- * Transplant and divide spring to mid-summer blooming perennials in the fall (opposite season they bloom).
- * Continue planting trees and shrubs until the soil freezes; apply Miracle-Gro Quick Start to establish roots quickly.
- * When planting any plant, dig the hole the depth of the growers container, but slightly wider for backfill space. Separate the roots of the plant, place in the hole and backfill with a mixture of 2 parts existing clay soil and 1 part Petitti Planting Mix.
- * Aerate the lawn, loosening compact, clay soil and allowing air, water and nutrients to penetrate the soil.
- * Dethatch lawn if needed, removing decaying/dead grass and increasing air circulation.
- * Best time to re-seed or over-seed your lawn (grade, seed, rake it in, cover with ¼" soil, use a starter fertilizer or a slow release fertilizer without weed control, water).
- * Fertilize lawn with a 4th step fertilizer (Fall or Winterizer) sometime after Labor Day thru Thanksgiving.
- * Continue to treat broadleaf weeds in the lawn with Ortho Chickweed & Clover Killer, Ortho Weed-B-Gon plus Crabgrass or Ortho Nutsedge Killer.
- * You can apply Ironite to lawns at this time too for additional nutrients and greening.
- * Apply granular Bayer Lawn Fungus Control if fungal disease like red thread or rust appears.
- * For insects in the lawn, try Eight in a hose end sprayer or a granular insecticide like Bug-B-Gon MAX.
- * On woody plants prune to remove any damaged or diseased growth; wait until spring to do any other major pruning.
- * Deadhead roses, hydrangea, and clematis, but do not prune severely until next spring.
- * Map and tag any new garden additions before you start cleaning and protecting for winter.
- * Clean as you go removing stakes, spent annuals, cutting back established perennials that have no winter interest, etc.
- * Dig and hang still ripening tomato plants in the garage to harvest the fruit later.
- * Compost garden clean-up debris that is not weedy, disease or insect infested. Dispose of the rest.
- * Lift and store any tender bulbs after a couple of frosts, like Cannas, Dahlias, Gladiolas, etc.
- * Plan on slowly transitioning houseplants/tropicals from outdoors to indoors; after a couple of frosts, rinse them with a hard stream of water to remove insects, bring into the garage or under covered patio, apply houseplant systemic insecticide to the soil, wait a week, cut growth back to a manageable height, and bring them indoors.
- * Excellent time to cultivate, till the soil, and add amendments so it is ready to plant next spring.
- * Test soil pH of garden if not done so this year (5.5-7.5), add lime if below 5.5, add soil sulfur if above 7.5.
- * Apply a pre-emergent herbicide like Preen to stop any fall weed seed germination.
- * Try sowing Winter Wheat in the vegetable/annual garden to add Nitrogen to your soil and prevent weed growth.
- * Apply any winter protection materials just after the ground freezes (this includes mulch, burlap, straw, leaves, etc.)
- * Use Mole-Max, Plantskydd or Repels-All granules to discourage rodents from digging your newly planted bulbs, trees and shrubs.
- * Spray all the deer favorites with Plantskydd before a hard freeze or wrap with deer fence or burlap for additional protection.
- * Use vinyl tree wraps or aluminum foil to deter rabbit gnawing on bark and deer rubbing smaller trees.
- * Apply Wilt Pruf to any broadleaf evergreens (Holly, Rhododendron, etc.) to prevent desiccation from winter winds.
- * Drain and cover statuary, fountains and birdbaths. Cover and store outdoor furniture, cushions, umbrellas, etc.
- * Clean and winterize any hand or garden tools. Drain and store any power tools.

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