

Fall Yard and Garden Care

Goals

The first goal is to identify what tasks needed in your lawn and garden to properly prepare it to overwinter. Each task has a purpose, and an ideal timing to perform the task.

AREAS

There are four areas of consideration for fall tasks include your lawn, flower gardens, shrubs and trees and your vegetable garden.

Lawn

- Seeding should be completed from mid-August through mid-September
- Sod can be put down when it is cool and should be kept watered.
- “Winterizer” applied in September* (depends if seed sown)
- Weed Removal: Fall can be a good time for broad leaf weed control
- De-thatching and aeration are options that may help your lawn be healthier and should be completed by mid-September
- Fall mowing height will become shorter
- Watering

Flower Gardens

- Annuals:
 - Pull dead or declining annuals
 - Do not put diseased plant material in your home compost
- Perennials
 - The pros and cons of clean up or not to clean up
 - Continue watering and weeding
 - Remove diseased plants but do not add to home compost
 - Mark plants to divide
- Fertilizing and Deadheading
- Winter Mulch: Apply after the ground is frozen
- Bulbs: Plant Spring Bulbs in fall, and pull tender bulbs for storage inside
- Containers: Clean and disinfect containers

Shrubs and Trees

- Shrubs
 - Pruning should be complete by early August: Follow the schedule depending on the shrub
 - No fertilizing after August 1
 - Continue watering
 - Planting- how late, deciduous and conifers

- Trees
 - Continue watering
 - Mark branches for winter pruning
 - Planting new deciduous trees can be done up until the ground freezes; evergreens by mid-September but both will need watering
- Both Shrubs and Trees
 - Provide winter protection for thin bark young trees as well as protection from wildlife
 - Do not fertilize
 - Remove leaves beneath trees, particularly those that have been diseased

Vegetable garden

- Clean up the garden for all frost killed annuals
- Remove weeds, equipment and debris
- Amend soils with leaves, compost or cover crops to ensure there is no bare soil for the winter
- If you are planting garlic water if needed
- Clean up the plants, compost or not?

Other Fall Tasks

- Containers: Clean and disinfect containers
- Tools: Clean, sharpen and put away
- Winterize: Lawnmower, snow blower, rain barrels, hoses and ponds
- Take photos and notes to remember what worked and what did not work
- Sign up for garden catalogs

PLANS TO CONSIDER FOR NEXT YEAR

- Can you install a lazy garden bed this fall for prepare for spring planting?
- Root prune of shrubs to move in the spring
- Mark plants that need special spring care (appear late, divide etc.)

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