



J&L Garden Center

The All Season Gift
and Garden Center

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Fall Gardening

The fall season, with its equal days and nights, changes many things. It is the turning point in the growing habits in both plant and insect life. Many plants will put on a new growth spurt just before their fall dormancy. Don't be surprised if you see a few brand new leaves on your Japanese Maple, Quaking Aspen, Maple, or other shade trees (especially if they were "heat stressed" this past summer). Occasionally we will also see some trees blossom in the fall. Enjoy the white flowers on your flowering pear tree, if it happens to bloom this fall, the tree will be just fine next spring.



Chewing insects gorge themselves before winter arrives. Insect damage is very apparent in the fall. Grasshoppers, beetles, and other insects may need to be controlled in your garden this fall. Woolly aphids often appear on the branches of apple trees, willow trees, and many other shrubs and trees. Be sure to watch for slug and snail activity, these pests do not die in the winter. Slugs and snails just hibernate until spring. Don't give up controlling insects until the frost comes and they have disappeared for the winter.

Because of the changes in the plant's growth habits, you may need to adjust your gardening habits this fall, to get your yard ready for winter.

Fall Lawn Care

Fall is a good time to fertilize your lawn. Fertilize your lawn with a slow release fertilizer such as **J&L Fall & Winter Lawn Food**. Another excellent slow releasing lawn fertilizer is **Dr. Earth Organic Lawn Fertilizer**. This fertilizer also provides beneficial bacteria that can help your lawn overcome many problems caused by heat stress, poor soil conditions, and insect or disease problems. Dr. Earth Organic Lawn Fertilizer is an organic fertilizer that can be applied two or three times a year to help prevent lawn diseases.



Do not let leaves remain on your lawn very long. Leaves shade the grass and can kill the lawn during the winter. In addition, leaves left on lawns too long may help stimulate a lawn disease known as snow mold. One of the easiest ways to dispose of these unwanted leaves is to simply mow them, bag them, and use them as compost in your gardens. Mow your lawn 1.5" to 2" long until your lawn stops growing. Once the lawn stops growing for the winter, mow your lawn as short as you can.

Many lawn weeds are still growing right now. **Fertilome Weed Free Zone** is a good spray to kill most weeds in the lawn, including dandelions, morning glory, and clover. **Weed Free Zone** will not kill any 'grassy weeds' - just the 'broadleaf weeds'. If you have any of the annual grassy weeds just pull as many



as possible this fall and apply **Crabgrass & Spurge Preventer** next spring to kill the seeds as they germinate.

Fall Rose Care



Don't fertilize roses in the fall. Roses need time to 'harden off' before winter arrives. Roses growing too fast in the fall have new, 'soft' growth. This 'soft' growth is prone to winter injury while the older, 'hard' growth will tolerate the winter weather.

Reduce the amount of water you apply to your roses in the fall, again to help them 'harden off' before winter arrives.

Don't pick rose flowers after Oct 1. Let the blossoms mature into rose hips. Hip formation helps the rose bush to 'harden off' for winter.

Prune your rose canes down to three or four feet high after the leaves completely freeze this winter. The only reason you need to prune roses in the fall is to prevent the snow from breaking the canes. Don't prune climbing roses or shrub roses.

Wait until spring to do major rose pruning. In the spring, after the danger of frost is past, prune your bush roses to 14" to 20" tall. Prune climbing roses to fit your arbor or trellis.

Mulch your roses to protect the roots from severely cold temperatures. Let the ground freeze lightly before covering them. Cover rose bushes with six inches of leaves, soil pep, bark, or garden soil around each bush. Don't use grass clippings to mulch roses. Grass clippings can create a fungus problem that can damage your rose bushes.

Planting Pansies In The Fall



More and more gardeners are realizing that the best time to plant pansies is in the fall, not in the spring. Pansies love the cold weather. They grow and bloom all fall and winter, until the weather gets extremely cold. As soon as the weather warms in the spring, pansies will start to bloom again and will look great until the temperature starts to get hot in the summer.

Pansies are considered biennials or short-lived perennials. Because of their temperature requirements, it is best to treat them as a 'cold-season annual flower'. This means that the best to plant them is in the fall and then remove them in the summer, when they start to decline. Try planting pansies in gardens that you normally use for 'hot-weather annuals'. Plant pansies a little farther apart this fall so there is room to plant annual flowers in between them next spring. As the pansy plants become leggy, and decline during the summer, the hot weather annuals will take over and you can simply remove the pansy plants as needed.

Pansies are hybrids and breeders are always coming up with more color combinations and markings. Pansies do not have to be 'dead headed' to keep them blooming. However, pinching

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back pansy plants, after they bloom, helps to keep the plants more compact and bushy, and it does help stimulate more blossoms. While you are pinching back pansies be sure to keep a jar of water handy to fill with the flowers. Pansies make charming bouquets so you don't have to just waste the flowers. You can make the flowers last even longer if you will change the water daily, and make fresh cuts on the stems when you change the water.

Pansies also grow great in containers, as long as the pot is big enough not to freeze solid during the winter. You can move the containers from area to area during the winter, as the winter temperatures dictate.

Pansies are heavy feeders, they need a lot of fertilizer to keep them blooming their best. Fertilize them every two or three weeks with **Blooming & Rooting Fertilizer** when you first plant them in the fall. Start fertilizing them again next spring, at least once every three or four weeks, until they start to decline in the heat of summer. Once the temperature reaches 90 degrees nothing will help keep your pansies blooming. They will start to struggle and many plants give up and die.



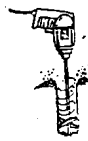
Plant Tulip and Daffodil Bulbs in the Fall

Fall bulbs are perhaps the easiest of all flowers to plant, grow, and have bloom. It is almost impossible to make a mistake planting fall bulbs because all the nutrients the bulbs need to bloom are already stored inside the bulb before you buy them. To keep bulbs healthy year after year requires a little more care. The most important steps for planting and keeping bulbs healthy are: **1. Prepare the soil before planting 2. Choose healthy bulbs 3. Plan your design 4. Plant bulbs properly 5. Take care of your bulbs properly after they bloom.** The hardest part about planting bulbs in the fall is deciding which bulbs you like best and knowing when to stop buying bulbs. We have a handout with a lot more information about planting fall bulbs. Please stop by and pick up a copy, or download it from our website.



Plant Tulips with a Bulb Auger

Bulb augers help take the chore out of planting bulbs and flowers. Bulb augers can also make planting petunias, marigolds, and tomatoes easy next spring. By using a bulb auger, you can plant up to 300 bulbs in one hour. We have two different styles of bulb augers available for rent and for purchase. One style is for digging holes while standing up. The other style lets you dig your holes while you are on your knees. Both styles work great. The main problem with bulb augers is once you start you won't be able to stop. You may have to plant more flowers than you thought.



Fall Vegetable Garden Care

Are you still harvesting peas, broccoli, carrots, onions, cabbage, or lettuce? You could be! You can have an excellent fall harvest of many different vegetables if you plan your planting schedule correctly. Peas are one of the easiest fall veggies. Plant a crop of peas in July or August and you can enjoy fresh peas in October and November.



Watch the weather. If there is a threat of frost, try to cover your tender vegetable plants with a frost blanket, or harvest your vegetables before the frost. Peppers, cucumbers, squash, toma-

atoes, and many other vegetables are damaged even by a light frost. If you cover your plants at night you can often extend your harvest season by several weeks.

Tomatoes need an average daily temperature of 65F and a nighttime temperature above 57F to ripen. If temperatures are staying below this, pick all the fruit that have begun to change color, from the dark green stage to the pink stage. Take them inside to finish ripening. The dark green, immature tomatoes will not ripen, they will just rot.



Cure pumpkins and winter squash at temperatures between 70 and 80F for two weeks after harvest, then store them between 55 to 60F for winter use. Unfortunately, summer squash does not store very well so you have to eat them fairly soon after picking. We have a more detailed guide available about harvesting and storing vegetables. Please stop by and pick up "*Harvest Tips*" or download a copy from our website.

Don't Give Up Now

Don't quit pulling weeds from your garden. Many weeds germinate readily in the fall. One of the first weeds that people ask us about in the spring is *mouse-eared chickweed*. This weed germinates in the fall, grows during the winter, and produces blue flowers and seeds early in the spring. It is much easier to kill it in the fall, as it is just starting to grow, than trying to kill it in the spring, when it is mature and producing seeds. Weeds can produce enough seeds, in the fall, to supply you with plenty of seeds that may continue to germinate for many years to come. Seeds can be dormant 10 to 20 years in the soil and still germinate.



Hand pull, hoe, cultivate, or apply weed preventers now. An application of **Casoron, Preen, Eptam, or Treflan** this fall will help prevent a wide variety of weeds from germinating in your garden this fall, and may help prevent a weed problem next spring. The type of weed preventer you apply depends on the type of plants you want to grow in that garden. Stop by for a copy of our '*Weed Prevention*' handout, or download a copy from our website.

Morning Glory Control

Wild morning glory is also known as field bindweed and devil gut. Do not confuse wild morning glory with the annual morning glory vines that are easily controlled and bloom beautifully all summer. Wild morning glory grows in almost every part of the world and is one of nature's most persistent plants, with roots penetrating to a depth of more than ten feet. It also produces seeds that may germinate over a 20 year period. Wild morning glory is a tough problem in your yard, but you can control it if you have the persistence.

Chemical controls such as **WeedBeater, Weed Free Zone, Killzall, or Roundup** will kill this weed, but timing is critical. Spray wild morning glory this fall as soon as the night temperature drops below 40F, but while it is still growing. The more leaves that are present when you spray, the more effectively the chemical can be absorbed and translocated throughout the plant. Spraying after the first frost, the one that kills your tomatoes and cucumbers, is the best time of the entire year to kill morning glory. After the first frost, morning glory starts going dormant by moving sugars from the leaves back into the root system for winter storage. By spraying in the fall, you can get more of the herbicide down deep into the root system and actually kill it.



Although a single application of one of these weed killers will greatly reduce your morning glory infestation, you will probably not eradicate the weed with just one application, or even in one year. Young morning glory plants may arise in the spring from roots that weren't completely killed in the fall. Seeds may also continue to germinate. Regular cultivation of your gardens during the summer will give you the chance to remove these young plants before they have a chance to mature and become a real problem. We have a more detailed morning glory control handout available. Please stop by to pick up a copy of 'Morning Glory Control' or download a copy from our website.

Fall Pruning

Don't prune plants too severely just before winter. Pruning stimulates growth. New growth, just before winter, makes many tender plants less hardy for winter. Also, many plants store food in their leaves. If you remove too much of these food reserves the plants may be damaged during the winter.



However, fall is a good time to get your yard into shape for winter and spring by doing some minor pruning. Trim your 'summer flowering' shrubs (such as mock orange, potentilla, spiraea, etc.) after the leaves drop off this fall. Don't trim your 'spring flowering' shrubs (such as forsythia, quince, lilac, etc.) until after they finish blooming next spring. If you prune your 'spring flowering' shrubs in the fall, you will remove most of the flower buds for next spring and lose the flowers. **Remember, don't prune roses this time of year, wait until April.**

You can prune some shade trees this fall, after the leaves drop. Maples, birches, willows and many other shade trees respond well to fall pruning because they 'bleed sap' if you prune them in the spring. Don't prune fruit trees in the fall unless you absolutely have to. Wait to prune fruit trees in March or April. Also, wait to prune your 'early-flowering' trees until after they finish blooming in the spring, so you can enjoy their blossoms before you remove the unwanted branches.

You can give all of your hedges, topiary plants, and upright junipers one last light trimming for the year. This final touch up can make a big difference in how they will look during the winter and next Spring.

Fall Planting

Q. Is Fall a good time to plant?

A. Fall is usually the best time of the year to plant trees and shrubs. Fall plantings will:
1. Give your plants a headstart for spring. **2.** Demand less care because of cooler weather. **3.** Provide more pleasant working conditions.

Q. When does "Fall Planting" start?

A. "Fall Planting" begins as soon as the air begins to cool and the days begin to shorten: plants decrease their rate of growth. Experienced nurserymen refer to this as the time when plants "harden off." When you feel that fall "nip in the air," it's a great time to plant!

Q. Do plant leaves stop functioning in the fall?

A. Leaf color may change slightly and the leaves may harden, but they continue to make and store food for the root system. When leaves finally change to their fall color, the food manufacturing process ends.

Q. How does the weather change affect planting?

A. Cooler weather means plants need less water. Newly



planted trees and shrubs will have less transplant shock and will need less care later in the year.

Q. What kind of plants can I plant in the fall?

A. Most trees, shrubs, perennial flowers, grasses and roses are easily planted in the fall, as long as weather conditions are right.

Q. How late in the fall can I plant?

A. It depends on the plant. Some trees, like Dogwoods, Magnolias, and other tender trees should not be planted after October because they need to establish new roots before temperatures drop too far. Broad-leaved evergreens should also be planted early in the fall. Most other hardy, woody, ornamental plants may be planted until the ground freezes.

Q. What about planting Perennial Flowers?

A. Perennial flowers are usually best planted and/or divided in the fall, before the ground starts to freeze. Don't resist planting them in the fall just because they happen to be out of bloom. They will have beautiful flowers next year!

Good Soil Health

The topics of good *soil health* and proper *soil conditions* are becoming more and more important. Without good soil health, and without the proper soil conditions, gardening will not be easy nor will it be enjoyable. Gardening will become a chore and will produce many undesirable and often disastrous results. Take time to improve these two gardening situations before you start gardening and you will have much better success.



New home landscaping is often a major undertaking with very poor soil health and terrible soil conditions. Poor soil health is usually the result of extensive excavating and intensive grading. Much of the native topsoil is removed at the beginning of the construction project and is replaced with subsoil after the construction is finished. During the excavation and grading process most of the organic material in the soil is lost and all of the beneficial bacterial and fungi are destroyed. In addition, the soil is usually heavily compacted during all of these processes.

By the time you, the homeowner, take possession of the new home, the soil is often in a state of extreme compaction. The soil probably has very poor soil structure and texture. And perhaps worst, the soil is usually lacking - in any sense, of any kind, of any natural cycle, of a 'living soil'.

Quite often the new homeowner's first strategy of starting the landscape is to dig a hole, put in a plant, and hope the plant can survive in this new, hostile environment.

Unless the soil structure is modified and improved, and the soil is inoculated with the beneficial microbial complexes that stimulate an efficient relationship between the soil and plant roots, the plants will often just barely survive. Sometimes the plant may just give up and die while trying to grow new roots in this hostile environment.

Feed your garden soil - not just your plants. Your garden's soil condition is the most important part of gardening success. Some of the insect and disease problems your plants may struggle with during the summer can be prevented just by making sure your soil is well prepared before you plant them.

Remember, **Garden Soil is not Dirt.** Dirt is the stuff you wash out of your clothes after working in the yard. Garden Soil is a complex mixture of minerals, air, water, organic matter, mi-

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crobes, and other critters. Soil is full of life and deserves your attention. Perfect soil is hard to come by in most home gardens. It will take a little extra effort to obtain this type of soil. The best way to start improving your garden soil is by adding **Organic Materials** - every year. The best time to apply **Organic Materials** is in the fall, not in the spring. Mix as much Bumper Crop, manure, compost, Soil Pep, or other organic materials (within reason) as you can afford. You will be amazed each spring how much better your soil is than it was the previous year. Many garden soils may take four, six, or even 10 years to completely change, but you will notice an improvement each year.



In addition to 'mulch', good soil needs beneficial microbes for plants to utilize. One of the best microbes is a fungus known as **Mycorrhizae**. The term mycorrhizae means 'fungus roots' and is the name given to a class of soil fungus that live in a symbiotic relationship with plant roots. The fungus grows both inside the roots (endo mycorrhizae) and on the outside of the roots (ecto mycorrhizae). These fungi gather water and nutrients that benefit the host plant. The host plant responds and helps spread the fungi further into the soil as the roots expand, grow, and develop.



Most native soils contain some forms of mycorrhizal fungi. However, soil compaction, erosion, and other forms of topsoil removal reduce the native populations. It is very beneficial to add mycorrhizae back into the soil while you are planting new shrubs, flowers, and vegetables. Most plants, 90% of all plants, take advantage of the special relationship that these beneficial fungi have with their root systems. Mycorrhizae create a bridge between the plant root system and the surrounding natural soil.

We have an excellent handout about improving soils and adding mulches called '**Garden Soil**'. We also have a handout about '**Dr. Earth Organic Fertilizers**'. This fertilizer contains mycorrhizae and seven other forms of beneficial bacteria. Please stop by and pick up a copy, or download them from our website.

Peach, Nectarine & Apricot Tree Care

The peach tree borer often takes the rap for more than its fair share of trouble. Most of the time when you see sap on the trunk of a peach tree you automatically assume the tree has a borer. You are right, but only some of the time. Two other problems that can cause sap to ooze out of the trunk of stone fruits are **Bacterial Canker** and **Coryneum Blight**, both of which need to be treated differently than peach tree borer. Bacterial canker, sometimes known as Gummosis, produces sunken, dark lesions that allow sap to ooze from the affected area. Coryneum Blight is also known as shot hole fungus because the disease makes small "BB" holes in the leaves, as if someone shot the tree with a shotgun. This disease was extremely active this past spring and summer because of the warm, wet, spring weather. Both of these diseases can kill your trees if you do not treat them. Remove any dry sap and spray the entire tree with **Copper Fungicide** as soon as 90% of the leaves drop off. It is very important that you treat this problem this fall and not wait until spring.



You may also need to treat your trees again next spring just before they leaf out. After the trees leaf out next spring, watch the weather. If the weather is warm and rainy, be sure to spray them every two weeks during the rainy period with Daconil fungi-



cide. We have a handout giving more details about Coryneum Blight. Stop by and pick up a copy or download if from our website.

Pine Tree Care

Many pine trees are struggling. We recommend that you do not fertilize deciduous trees and shrubs in the fall. However, if you have a pine tree, or a spruce tree, that appears to be under stress, go ahead and fertilize it with a tree or shrub fertilizer that contains iron, such as **Dr. Earth All Purpose Fertilizer**. Fall fertilizer does not stimulate new growth, or harm pine trees, the same way it can damage deciduous plants.



Be sure to water your pine trees occasionally during the fall, at least until the snow begins to fall. Evergreen plants need more water and a little more attention than deciduous plants.

Fall is the best time to move plants. Transplant deciduous plants when they are dormant; after they drop their leaves. Pine trees and shrubs can be transplanted a little earlier than deciduous plants; but it is still a good rule of thumb to wait until leaves drop off surrounding deciduous plants before moving pine trees.

Pine Tree - Fall Needle Drop

Each September and October we receive many calls from gardeners concerned about the lower and inner needles of their pine trees turning yellow and brown. Do not be alarmed if your pine trees, yews, junipers, and arborvitae plants shed their innermost needles. This is natural each fall; the inside needles will turn yellow and then drop off the branch. More needles will turn yellow and drop off a plant after a stressful summer than after a normal summer. Don't be too surprised if a lot of needles turn yellow and drop off your plants this fall because of the hot summer weather.



Contrary to the name 'evergreen', these trees do not keep their needles indefinitely. Pine trees only keep an individual needle for two or three years. After that time period the tree stops feeding that needle and the needle dies and falls off the tree. Each spring a pine tree grows a new set of needles and each fall the tree sheds its oldest set of needles. Some years a pine tree may shed two sets of old needles making the needle drop even more evident. Needle drop in newly planted trees, and in trees under stress, is more noticeable than in the older and larger trees. However, all pine trees lose some of their needles each fall, including Austrian Pine, Scotch Pine, Mugho Pine, Blue Spruce, Alberta Spruce, Junipers, and even Yews. Download a copy of our handout '**Pine Needle Drop**' from our website for more information about this subject.

Plant Hardiness in Winter

Some plants are much more winter hardy than others. We sell many plants that thrive in Oregon, without any winter care, but will struggle and die if not properly protected in Utah. Many plants that are not supposed to survive in this area will grow and flourish if they receive the correct winter care. Some plants in one area of the yard may need much more protection than the exact same plant in another area of the same yard. Why are some plants able to survive cold winter temperatures and others do not?



Sometimes it isn't the cold temperatures that cause the problem. Our native plants are acclimatized and synchronized to our local climate. They respond to the day length and temperature

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signals each fall to prepare for winter. If plants are brought in from other climates and do not have time to acclimatize to our growing conditions they may be damaged during the winter weather. They may not form the hardy dormant buds in time for the sub-zero weather.

Sometimes it is the fluctuation in temperature, water condition, or the plant's current condition, that causes the injury. We live in a **FREEZE-THAW-FREEZE-THAW** area in which the weather conditions change frequently. The first step to protect your plants, in the winter, is to keep your plants as healthy as possible during the spring, summer and fall. A healthy plant will endure much more winter stress than a struggling plant can.

Most frost injury doesn't actually occur during the winter, it occurs in the late-fall and in the early-spring. Early frosts in the fall can injure plants that are not quite ready for winter. Keeping plants too wet, or giving them too much fertilizer in the fall, can prevent plants from getting ready for winter. Late frosts in the spring may damage plants that think spring arrived a week or two earlier. A magnolia, for example, planted on the south side of a house enjoys the warmth and protection from the house. It may start to bloom and leaf out earlier than it would have if it was planted on the east side of the same house. This early growing time may actually kill the tree, while it would have been just fine in another location.

Winter Care of Plants In Pots

Very few plants in containers can survive the winter without some winter protection. Some pots may break if left outside for the winter. This exposes plant roots to the air, which is deadly to roots. Most plants that die in pots during the winter, die from the lack of water, not from the cold. You need to remember that all roots need water - year round. If mother nature does not provide it with snowfall then you will have to water them occasionally. A pot in a sunny spot will need water more often than a pot in the shade. You can shovel snow into the pots to help provide the necessary moisture. Sometimes the best way to protect plants in pots during the winter is to move the pots inside a shed, to set the pots in a shady place right next to the house, or to actually bury the entire pot in the garden for the winter.



Splitting Bark

Bark splitting is a fairly common problem on many trees. Bark splitting is often caused either by environmental or physical factors. Newly planted trees, fruit trees, and thin barked trees (locust, redbud, kwanzan cherry) are especially prone to splitting bark. Bark splits are not always immediately fatal to the tree, but they can be an entry point for many disease organisms that will kill them over time.



Bark splitting is usually caused by large temperature changes between day and night, especially during the late-fall and early-spring. The frost freezes water within the trunk causing a vertical split in the bark. Excessive fall growth is another major cause of this type of injury. Fertilizing trees late in the fall, or keeping trees too wet late in the fall, may promote a late surge of growth that could actually harm them rather than benefiting the tree. Nice warm January temperatures, after a cold December, also create conditions that may cause the bark to split.

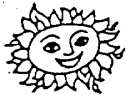
The best ways to prevent splitting bark is to fertilize trees in the early spring instead of the fall. Keep trees moist until they drop their leaves and then stop watering them, except for the

newly planted trees. Wrap the trunk of susceptible trees (especially young trees) with tree wrap, or paint the trunks with white paint.

If your trees already have a split in the bark, the best way to help the tree recover is to make sure the wound has clean, smooth edges. Use a sharp knife to remove all loose bark but do not make the wound worse by removing healthy bark. Do not cover the wound with any type of paint or tar; leave the wound open. A healthy tree should create a callus over the edges quickly and the tree will eventually cover the split. An unhealthy tree will struggle and eventually die. It is often better to remove an unhealthy tree and start over, rather than try to save it.

Winter Sunscald

Sunscald is another type of injury that can kill a tree during the winter. This injury is deadly both to thin barked and to newly planted trees. Sunscald is caused by the same conditions that cause bark splitting. Too much water, too much fertilizer, or warm weather in December or January can make the trees susceptible to sunburn. Sunlight reflects off the snow and 'burns' the bark (similar to a person that is ice fishing or that goes skiing getting sunburned). The bark then freezes at night. These freeze - thaw cycles can kill the bark and can slowly kill the tree. Sunscald can also be caused by severely pruning a tree at the wrong time of year. Removing leaves that shade other branches can allow the sun to damage the tender tissue that is not used to direct sunlight.



You can prevent sunscald by wrapping the trunk, or by painting the trunk white, in the fall. If you drive past a peach orchard during the winter you will notice that many of the trunks have been painted white to prevent this type of injury.

Plant Dehydration

Most winter injury is caused when the plant runs out of water (inside the plant) during the winter. Broadleaf evergreens such as boxwood, holly, euonymus, and rhododendrons, continue both to use and to lose water through their leaves during the winter. Winter daytime temperatures can be 60 to 70F in sunny areas. This temperature may cause evergreen leaves to release water. If the ground is frozen and the plant's roots cannot replace this water loss, the leaves will turn brown and die. Southern or western exposures, or windy conditions, can aggravate this problem. A layer of mulch around the roots can help prevent this type of winter injury. Coating the leaves with an antidesiccant spray, such as **Wilt Pruf**, can also help winter dehydration. Wilt Pruf is a wax that coats the leaves and prevents water loss through the leaf pores.



Changing Leaf Colors

The process of leaves changing color and falling off a tree is an actual growth process. The plant uses energy to complete the process. A healthy plant drops its leaves; a dead tree doesn't lose its leaves unless they are physically removed by wind or shaking.



During the growing season, leaves appear green because the plant is producing abundant quantities of chlorophyll. As the amount of daylight decreases in autumn, chlorophyll production slows down and then stops completely, enabling the carotenoids and anthocyanin pigments to appear. Moisture and temperature also influence how fast the color change will occur and how brilliant the change will be. Colors are their brightest when warm fall days are accompanied with very cool nights (below

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45 degrees but above freezing). An early fall, with adequate moisture conditions, stimulates brilliant red and purple color changes. The yellow and brown colors will always be brilliant no matter what the weather is, but the reds and purples will vary from year to year. Watch the mountains, some years the colors are brilliant, other years the colors seem to fade fast. The temperature and moisture conditions determine how long the colors stay vivid. The cooler and wetter the conditions are, the longer the colors will remain brilliant.

Some of the most popular shrubs that have a pretty fall color are: **Burning Bush, Goldflame Spiraea, Limemound Spiraea, Crimson Pygmy Barberry, Glennora Seedless Grape Vines, Blueberry Plants, Virginia Creeper, Boston Ivy, and Heavenly Bamboo.**

Some pretty trees with a brilliant fall color are: **Flowering Pear, Flowering Cherry, Red Sunset Maple, Amur Maple, October Glory Maple, Red Oak, Autumn Purple Ash, and Scrub Oak.**

Why doesn't my Burning Bush (or Amur Maple) turn Red? You didn't buy the wrong plant and your plant is not defective, it just needs some TLC. If your plants don't change color like they are supposed to, try changing a few of their growing conditions. Make sure the plant is healthy and not in an extremely hot or shady location. Make sure the plant has adequate soil moisture. Don't fertilize your plant with too much nitrogen (too much nitrogen stimulates extra chlorophyll). Try making the soil pH a little more acidic by adding sulphur to the soil in the spring.

The green chlorophyll in a leaf has to disappear for the other pigments in the leaves to appear. If the plant doesn't eliminate the production of the chlorophyll, the red pigments will not show up. For a more detailed information sheet about this 'fall growth process', please pick up a copy of our 'Falling Leaves' handout or download it from our website.

Don't Give Up Now



As fall fades into winter, yards and gardens should have been cleaned up and plants should have gone dormant. **What about the insect pests?** Most insects will be protected and will be ready to reappear next season. Many common insect pests actually overwinter in plant debris left in the garden, so it does pay to clean the garden at the end of the season. For example, cabbageworms that may have infested your cabbage and broccoli plants during the summer spend the winter in the pupa stage in plant debris left in the garden. Cucumber beetles overwinter as adult beetles in the same debris. The tomato hornworm also spends the winter as a pupa in plant debris. Lawn grubs safely rest as a larvae just below the frostline in the soil.

Other nuisance insects (boxelder bugs, snails, centipedes, earwigs, millipedes) overwinter in sheltered areas such as under plastic weedcloth left in the gardens, in the siding of your house or in a pile of firewood. These insects may also become active during the warm spells of winter.

Some caterpillars overwinter on the actual tree they eat during the summer. Eggs are deposited in the cracks in the bark or in the crotches of branches, ready to hatch next spring. Aphids also deposit their eggs in these same areas. You may see a willow branch completely engulfed with large black aphids this fall, or an apple tree completely covered with the cottony covering of the woolly apple aphid.

Spend some time this fall controlling these pests and you

may save yourself some time and money next spring. Spray the trunk of all the trees you know that have these insects. **Dormant Oil** is a safe, organic insecticide that effectively kills both larvae and eggs, if applied at the right time. Nothing kills eggs that are completely ready for the winter weather, but if you spray before the eggs are ready for winter, or just as the eggs are starting to hatch in the spring, you can have some pretty good control.

Spiders are Good Guys



Most spiders in your yard are beneficial. They trap and eat many insects that would otherwise love to cause problems for you, your flowers, shrubs and trees. Spiders effectively control flies, crickets, other spiders, dust mites within your house, and many houseplant pests. Spiders make a natural insect trap and as long as they stay outside it is to your benefit to leave them alone. Spiders may actually kill more insects than you can by spraying.

However, once a spider decides to invade your home it becomes a nuisance pest. Even a tiny little spider trapped in the bathtub can compel an otherwise self-assured person to scream for the nearest designated spider killer in the family to come and take care of the problem.

Most nuisance pests are very hard to control, such as boxelder bugs, flies, ants, and millipedes. Spiders are no different, they are hard to control. The best control for these nuisance pests is persistence. Chemical insecticides will kill any spiders that come in contact with the spray. However, there is usually not a very long residual effect to control these types of pests. If you can prevent these spiders from entering your house the control is much simpler. Make sure your screens are in good condition. Caulk around doors and windows. Spray the outside foundation of your house in the fall; spiders are looking for warmth and protection from the weather.

Once spiders, and other insects, enter your house control is a little harder. Regular applications of an insecticide inside your house may help to control some pests. **Ant, Roach & Spider Spray** is available in both an aerosol spray and a trigger spray. Use this type of spray around the baseboards and walls. An **Indoor Insect Fogger** is another fairly safe way to eliminate some of these unwanted pests. Vacuuming these unwanted pests is another safe way to eliminate them as well.

Perhaps one of the best ways to control these nuisance pests inside your home is to use a Spider Trap. **Spider Traps** kill all different kinds of spiders; not just the bad ones. Put a spider trap in several different areas of your house to catch spiders.

Next time, before you scream when you see a spider, just repeat this sentence aloud: "Spiders are good guys. Spiders are good guys".

Houseplant Care



Autumn is one of the most critical times of the entire year for houseplants. Autumn is the time of year that thermostats are turned-up and the air simply becomes too dry for most houseplants. By providing adequate humidity, a good location, and proper watering, the plants should continue to grow just fine.

Green foliage plants such as philodendrons, ferns, spider plants, etc., should be fertilized sparingly during the fall and winter. In fact, you only need to fertilize them once every two or three months during the winter season. Provide adequate humidity and place them in a bright location.

Flowering houseplants like African Violets, Cyclamens, and Kalanchoes should be fertilized monthly, even during the fall and winter. Be sure they get as much light as possible and maybe even two to four hours of artificial light at night. Fertilize monthly with **Fertilome Blooming & Rooting Fertilizer**.

Humidity is probably the most critical part of caring for houseplants, and it is one of the easiest problems to correct. You can simply put a glass of water near your plants, or you can fill a plant saucer with pea gravel and water and then set the plant on top of the gravel. Grouping plants together can also help increase humidity. By far the best way to increase the humidity is by using a humidifier, but it is not always practical. Do not mist plants to increase humidity because misting increases the risk of leaf diseases and of spotting on tender leaves.

Some houseplants need more light than what mother nature can provide inside your house. Try putting your houseplants on the south or west side of the house, preferably near a window. Flowering plants need more light than foliage plants, and may require the use of a **Grow Light** to keep them blooming during the winter.

Since most houseplants go into semi-dormancy during the fall and winter months they do not require as much water as they do during the rest of the year. Check your plant's water needs weekly during the fall before you determine your plant's winter watering schedule. You may need to adjust your watering schedule several times during the winter. You may also want to invest in a moisture meter to help you know exactly how often your plants need water. Be aware, more plants die from too much water than from any other problem.

Bulbs Not Blooming?

Unfortunately, there are numerous reasons why tulips and daffodils might not bloom! Here's a check list for you to look at. See if anything fits your gardens.



1. Bulbs have not been 'fed' in a couple of years. Fertilize both in the fall and again when the leaves emerge in the spring.

2. Bulbs are planted in a 'too-shady' area. Bulbs will bloom the first year after you buy them but they may not bloom again if they do not receive enough sunlight. Most bulbs need at least half a day of sun to produce flowers.

3. Bulbs are in competition for food with other plants. Planting bulbs under evergreen trees or with other fast-growing plants limits the food they can get. Result: weak plants and no flowers.

4. Bulbs are planted in an area with poor drainage. Most bulbs love water but must have good drainage. They do not grow well where the water puddles. In wet conditions they are weakened by "basal rot" fungus, or other diseases, and may die. Diseased plants usually have light-green leaves, malformed leaves and stems, and few, if any, flowers. Basal rot fungus is incurable so you need to dig and discard the bulbs.

5. Plant leaves were cut too soon the previous year. Bulbs replenish their food reserve for about six weeks after they bloom. The leaves should not be cut off until they start to lose their green color and turn yellow. This color change signifies the completion of the bulb rebuilding process.

6. Bulbs may be stressed from transplanting. Some varieties of bulbs seem to skip a year of blooming if dug and replanted into a different environment.

7. Some varieties grow well in one region but do not grow well in other regions. Ranunculus, for example, grow well in warm climates but they struggle in this area.

8. The bulbs may have a virus. Many plant viruses attack bulbs. Over time, infected plants lose their vigor. They produce smaller, weak-

ened leaves and stems, stop blooming, and they finally die. Viruses are contagious to other bulbs and are incurable. Dig and throw away the infected bulbs.

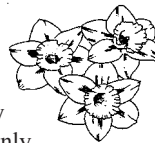
9. Growing conditions the previous Spring may have been inhospitable so the rebuilding of the bulb was affected. An early heat wave, or the lack of water may have shut down the bulb rebuilding process before it was complete.

10. Bulbs may have been growing in the same spot for 'too many' years and need dividing. Many bulbs normally divide every year or two. This results in clumps of bulbs that are competing for both food and space. Bulbs in compacted clumps tend to quit blooming. Dig the bulbs when the foliage has yellowed. Separate them into individual bulbs and replant them. You may replant immediately after dividing, or you may dry the bulbs in the shade, store them in mesh bags, and replant the bulbs in the Fall.

11. Bulbs may be out to get you! This is the case when you give them away in frustration and they bloom profusely for the new recipients.

Daffodil Facts

Daffodils are native to the Mediterranean area. They were grown by the Egyptians and Greeks. Daffodils were brought into the English gardens in the 1500s. By the 1600s about 50 cultivars of daffodils were commonly grown. By the early 1800s about 400 cultivars were available. Between the 1800s and the early 1900s another 1,000 cultivars were developed. From the early to mid 1900s about 6,000 more cultivars were hybridized. Today we have more than 24,000 different cultivars to choose from, if you can find them all. Many of these cultivars have only slight differences and the common daffodil grower would not notice any difference. Just like tulips, the **American Daffodil Society** and the **Royal Horticultural Society** have created several different classifications of daffodils.



1. Trumpet - The center cup is as long or longer than the petals.
2. Large Cup - The center cup is about the same size or up to 1/3 larger than the petals.

3. Small Cup - The center cup is about the same size or smaller than the petals.

4. Double - The center cup has multiple layers and there are multiple rows of petals.

5. Triandrus - The flower cup hangs and the petals sweep back.

6. Cyclamineus - The petals sweep back.

7. Jonquilla - The center is a very small cup. They have very fragrant flowers.

8. Tazetta, Poetaz - The flowers have very small cups. They are bunch-flowering and fragrant.

9. Poeticus - The flowers have white petals, small "eyes", late blooming, and they are usually fragrant.

Tulip Facts

Although individual tulip bulbs only bloom for a week or two, you can enjoy blooming tulips from April through May if you plant several different varieties. With the proper planning your tulip garden can be fun and exciting for 8 to 12 weeks each spring.



There are so many kinds of tulips, how do you know which ones to choose? They vary by color, blooming time, height, and flower form. The **Royal Horticultural Society** and the **Dutch Flowerbulb Industry** have classified tulips into 13 different categories. Some categories are based on genetic heritage and some are based on flower form. It is a flawed system and some tulips could fit into two or three different categories, but at least it standardizes terminology.

1. Emperor Tulips (fosteriana tulips). These are among the first tulips to bloom each spring. They are relatively short stemmed tulips. They sometimes bloom while snow is still on the ground or they may be covered by an inevitable late spring snow storm.

2. Kaufmanniana Tulips (rock garden tulips). These tulips are very short stemmed varieties. They usually grow 4" to 6" tall and have

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full sized blossoms. They usually bloom when the crocus are blooming in the yard.

3. Greigii Tulips. These tulips are very short stemmed tulips similar to the Kaufmanniana. Most Greigii tulips are mid season bloomers. They have mottled foliage and large flowers. They are often called 'rock garden tulips'.

4. Single Early Tulips. These tulips are medium height varieties that bloom after the Emperor Tulips but before the Darwin and Triumph varieties.

5. Triumph Tulips. These varieties have the broadest range of colors. They have many soft shades, bicolor varieties and vivid bright colors. These tulips are medium height. They usually grow 14" to 18" tall. They are mid to late bloomers.

6. Darwin Hybrid. These tulips are the most popular and versatile varieties. They have strong, vibrant colors. The bulbs are large and hardy and will perennialize for several years without having to dig them, where the conditions are right. These varieties are mid to late season bloomers. They grow quite tall, usually 20" to 24" tall.

7. Single Late Tulips. These tulips are tall, late blooming varieties. These varieties are valuable in making the transition from early bulb gardens to the summer flower gardens. They often overlap the planting time of summer annuals.

8. Double Tulips (Double early and Double Late). These tulips are double petaled types similar to their single blooming cousin. They grow tall and will bloom during the same time as the Single Early and Single Late varieties. They are often called *Peony Flowering Tulips* because the blossoms resemble peony blossoms.

9. Lily-Flowering Tulips. These tulips have strongly pointed flower tips. There are not many colors but the blossoms add variety to the garden. These tulips often bloom late.

10. Parrot Tulips. These tulips are floral freaks that have been popular for years. The feathery petals add an informal look to the bulb garden. Parrot tulips along with many of the other specialty (unusual varieties) are not very long-lived in the garden. Several types of specialty tulips seem to fade away after several years in the garden, unless they are fertilized heavily each year, and divided frequently.

11. Bouquet Tulips. These tulips produce several flowers on each stem. The blossoms are a little smaller than other varieties but they make up for it by having more flowers per bulb.

12. Species Tulips. These tulips are non-hybrid tulips. The flowers are often small and the stems are usually short; up to 9" tall. These tulips naturalize extremely well and are great in areas where they can be mass planted.

13. Fringed Tulips. These tulips are similar to parrot tulips in that they are floral freaks. They have normal tulip shaped buds, but the tips are very frilly and lacy. They are usually tall growing and are mid-season to late-blooming. There are only two or three different colors available in the fringed varieties.

Bulb Questions

1. Q. Why can't I plant tulip bulbs in the Spring?

A. Spring-flowering bulbs must be planted in the fall because they need a long cool period to stimulate the blooming process. Most tulips (and many other bulb varieties) need at least 6 to 8 weeks of cold weather before they will bloom properly.

2. Q. It's February and I forgot to plant my bulbs. Do I save them until next year?

A. **NO!** If the bulbs are plump and firm plant them now, even if you have to plant them into pots and put them outside in a shed. Bulbs are not seeds. They will not store and they will dry out and die if they are not planted. Chances are you may still get some results even if you plant them late.

3. Q. What should I do if the weather warms early and then gets cold again?

A. Nothing. Tulips and other bulbs are tough. They can



usually take whatever mother nature dishes out. A short freeze won't do any lasting damage to young shoots and buds, though it may 'burn' blossoms that have already opened. An unseasonably warm spell may cause bulbs to bloom earlier than anticipated, but in most cases no damage will occur, unless you damage the plants by covering them with mulch or you break the plants by covering them with a blanket.

4. Q. How do I keep animals from digging up bulbs?

A. Some animals are not attracted to the bulb but they love the smell of **Bone Meal** you use to fertilize the bulbs. Fido is sure you just buried a bone for him to find and eat! If you have animals (dogs, raccoons, squirrels, etc.) that may be a problem you may want to fertilize your bulbs with a commercial fertilizer instead of an organic fertilizer to eliminate the odor factor.

The only sure way of keeping unwanted animals from digging up your bulbs is to physically cover them with a screen or wire mesh. Some gardeners will leave the wire mesh in the soil and let the bulbs grow up through it. Other gardeners have found that removing the screen or wire mesh after the ground has settled or just before the bulbs begin to grow in the spring is just as effective as leaving the wire mesh permanently. Most animals won't dig up the bulbs after the ground hardens.

5. Q. Should I fertilize bulbs?

A. If you are planting bulbs for only one year's bloom: **NO**. If you want the bulbs to perennialize and bloom for many years: **YES**. Fertilize your bulbs when you plant them with a slow release bulb food such as **Bone Meal** or **Dutch Bulb Food**. Fertilize each spring, just as the shoots are appearing, with a balanced Vegetable & Flower Fertilizer such as either **6-10-4** or **16-16-8**.

6. Q. What should I do after the flowers fade next spring?

A. Wait until the blossoms fade and 'Dead Head' the plants. (Remove the flower head so it will not produce seeds.) Do not remove the leaves until the bulb has had a chance to replenish the food reserves within the bulb (six to eight weeks). If you remove the leaves too soon your bulbs will not bloom very well, if at all, next spring. Fight the urge to trim back or contain the leaves during the die-back phase. Don't bunch, tie or cut off the leaves during this period. Dealing with the fading foliage is one of those things that lovers of spring bulbs must learn to deal with. The only management tip is to camouflage the leaves; plant other flowers around them so they are not as noticeable.

7. Q. When should I plant my bulbs?

A. While it is best to buy your bulbs when the best selection is available (September), it is not always good to plant them that soon. Wait until the ground temperature drops below 60 degrees F to plant bulbs (October). Be sure to plant your bulbs at least six weeks before the ground freezes hard, so the bulb has time to start rooting in the fall. The key is to plant in the fall to have blooms in the spring. Even if you forget and plant late, your bulbs will spring into action and try to start rooting. Bulbs are pre-programmed to grow and will do their best no matter how late you plant them.

8. Q. Why should I plant bulbs in clusters?

A. Groups of flowers are more eye appealing than individual 'soldiers marching single file'. To create a greater color impact in the garden, plant clusters of the same color bulbs together in blocks. Try planting your bulbs in a triangular pattern in the garden with the point of the triangle towards the front of the garden to make the garden appear more full. Plant bulbs 4" to 8" apart within the clusters and plant your clusters 2' to 4' apart in the garden. Stop by and pick up a *Free Bulb Planting Guide* to give you more ideas about planting and growing tulips in your yard.

Household Invaders

It is once again the time when insects inadvertently enter

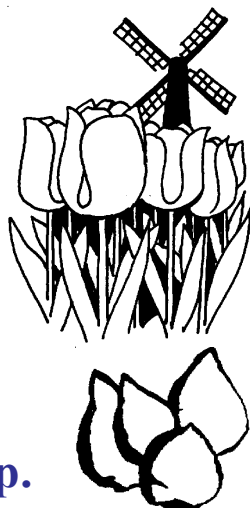
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homes and buildings from the surrounding landscape. Common accidental invaders include boxelder bugs, multicolored beetles, spiders, millipedes, and elm leaf beetles. Accidental invaders are generally harmless to people and property. They do not feed on people, pets, houseplants, stored products, or furnishings. They do not sting and they do not carry disease. Accidental invaders cannot reproduce indoors. They are nuisances just by their presence, especially when they occur in large numbers.



The preferred control for accidental invaders is prevention; stop them before they enter the house. Typical pest-proofing activities include using tight-fitting doors and windows; sealing openings and cracks around pipes, wires, windows, doors, chimneys, and foundations; repairing or replacing window screens; and keeping siding, eaves, and soffits in good repair.

Insecticide barriers can supplement pest-proofing and may have to be applied on a regular basis. Homeowners may spray **Permethrin** -sold as **Eight**, around your home's exterior.



Make sure to treat the southern and western sides of your home, where insects are most common. Apply the insecticide according to label directions to the siding, foundation, windowsills, and door thresholds. Spray the lawn and shrubs several feet from the building as well. Insecticides must be applied before insects begin to enter buildings to be effective.

Direct application of an insecticide to clusters of insects outside on the siding and foundation may also reduce the outdoor population and limit the number that will get into the house. Begin spraying as the insects congregate in late fall and repeat as necessary. You can also use a soapy water spray (5 tablespoons of liquid detergent per gallon of water). The soap solution kills only the bugs sprayed. It has no residual effect and does not prevent others from coming to the site.

Remove insects that have already entered the home with a dustpan or vacuum. A household insect spray such as **Bonide**

Ant and Roach Spray or **Bayer Household Insect Spray** provides some relief, but it is not a long-term solution to the problem. Aerosol sprays do not control any concealed pests. Insects that show up inside a home later in the winter and spring all entered the building the previous fall. They did not reproduce indoors, they just hibernated. Be sure to keep your vacuum handy to help get rid of these unwanted household pests.

Household Ants



Have you ever noticed a crumb from yesterday's sandwich sprouting legs and moving across the kitchen counter? What was yesterday's crumb is now a feast for an army of ants. Ants usually take regular routes to and from their nest and their food by establishing a chemical scent trail. Instead of leaving bread crumbs to find their way back home, they leave a smell behind to find their way back to the bread crumbs.

Ants can be common pests in homes. Damage from ants varies. Most ants are primarily just a nuisance; they cause little damage. However, carpenter ants can weaken wooden structures. Unlike termites, ants only nest in wood, they do not eat the wood. Ants have a wide range of nesting habits and food preferences. Some ants build nests in soil producing characteristic mounds, while other ants nest in homes behind mouldings, baseboards, countertops and even in potted houseplants. Still others, like carpenter ants, nest in decaying wood. Most indoor ants do not cause any structural damage to buildings.

Not all ants found outdoors become pests indoors. Outdoors, ants are important in aerating the soil and in seed dispersal of many wildflowers. Outdoor ant colonies generally do not require control. **Eight**, a permethrin pesticide provides a safe chemical control of ants outside if they become a nuisance. It is available both as a spray and in a granule form.

Inside, ants become a nuisance. They like to eat sweets, fats, starches, grains, and other foods - including meat. That's

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why they hang out in the kitchen. They may be nesting either inside or outside, so spraying a pesticide on the occasional ant foraging for food is only a temporary fix. However, spraying ant trails, tunnels, and the ant hill may help to eliminate the problem. **Bayer Household Pest Control** is a very effective way to control ants. Two other excellent indoor sprays are **Biogenic Crawling Insect Killer** and **Concern Citrus Home Pest Control**. These two products are not chemicals and they do not leave a chemical residue. In fact, **Biogenic Crawling Insect Killer** has a strong clove smell that is quite pleasant and **Concern Citrus Home Pest Control** has a pleasant citrus odor.

Ant traps and baits can also be effective inside the house. Put the traps under the sink, in the food closets, or behind the drawers in your kitchen. The best control for ants is to eliminate their food source and to keep a vacuum or a broom handy.

Fall Gardening Checklist

Fall gardening is a very important part of how well your garden will look next spring and summer. Listed below are some of the items you may want to make sure you complete this fall.

Check them off as you complete them in your yard.

- Fertilize lawn for the winter.
- Do not fertilize roses, shrubs, or trees in the fall.
- Feed Your Garden Soil, not just your plants.
- Kill Weeds! Don't give up, either spray them or pull them, especially morning glory, crabgrass & dandelions.
- Reduce water to trees & shrubs, but water occasionally until the snow starts to fall. Too much water, too late in



the fall, is bad for trees because it keeps them growing too late into the fall.

Water evergreen plants more frequently than deciduous plants. Water plants occasionally until the ground freezes solid or until it snows. Evergreen plants need more water in the winter than deciduous plants because they keep their leaves all winter. Most winter injury is caused by dehydration.

Wait to mulch roses, tender shrubs, or perennials until after the ground freezes.

Trim and tie up shrubs before the snow falls.

Harvest vegetables before the frost kills them.

Dig up and store spring & summer bulbs.

Spray lilac, peach trees, burning bush for diseases.

Plant tulip, daffodil, and some 'Fun Bulbs'.

Fertilize all bulbs planted in previous years.

Divide perennials such as peony, iris, daylily, phlox.

Prepare gardens for spring by removing dead plants.

Spread manure and roto-till this fall.

Rake leaves & start a compost pile.

Prepare the pond for winter.

Enjoy the pretty leaves.

Store apples at 40F; Squash at 55F, Tomatoes at 70F.

Move houseplants inside before the first frost. Make sure you do not bring any unwanted house guests inside with your plants! Be sure to spray your plants with an insecticide, at least twice, before taking them inside.

Try to outsmart the deer this winter!

This is not a complete list and it will vary from year to year. Make your own list of what needs to be done in your yard this fall and enjoy your fall gardening season.