



J&L Garden Center

The All Season Gift
and Garden Center

620 North 500 West Bountiful, Utah 292-0421

The Gardening Newsletter

www.JLGardenCenter.com

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Fall 2004

Fall Gardening

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 finish reading about them in our newsletter and complete them in your yard.

- Fertilize lawn for the winter.
- Feed Your Garden Soil, not just your plants.
- Don't give up on the weeds. Spray them or pull them, especially morning glory, crabgrass & dandelions.
- Reduce water to trees & shrubs, but water occasionally until the snow starts to fall
- 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 peonies, 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.
- Bring in the houseplants before the first frost.
- Hot peppers dry well. Thread them on a string to dry.
- Store apples at 40F; Squash at 55F, Tomatoes at 70F.
- Divide rhubarb every four to six years.
- 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.

J&L's Pumpkin Growing Contest

Pumpkin Growers, be sure to mark the following dates on your calendar and plan to attend **J&L's Largest**

Pumpkin Contest. Every entry receives a ribbon, and all pumpkins over 30 pounds will also receive a prize.

Thursday to Sat., Oct. 21 - 23 Pumpkin

Registration

Monday, October 25 Judge Pumpkins

**Mon to Thu., Oct 25-28 Pick Up Pumpkin
& Prize**

Christmas Open House

Thursday, Friday, & Saturday

November 11, 12, & 13

Come and see our great selection of Christmas Decorations, Supplies and Gifts. Our Garden Center will be transformed into a Christmas Wonderland. We have a full line of Indoor and Outdoor Lights, Artificial Christmas Trees, Garlands, Wreaths, and many more exciting Christmas decorations. We will also have many decorated trees which can help you see different ways you can decorate your own trees. Our fresh wreaths and trees will arrive the day after Thanksgiving. All of our Christmas decorations, trees, and supplies will be on sale for those three days.



Allium & Fritillaria, Bulbs worth planting

Fritillaria, sometimes known as 'Skunk Lily' is an interesting flower to say the least. It blooms about the same time as the mid- and late-season daffodils. There are many different varieties available but the most common are the Crown Imperial varieties. They have large, hanging flowers and are available in yellow, orange and red. Fritillaria bulbs are one of the few 'Deer Resistant' flowers and 'Squirrel Resistant' bulbs. Another variety, Persian Fritillaria, has small purplish-black flowers. A rule of thumb is to plant all bulbs 3 times deeper than the diameter of the bulb, but it does not hurt to plant fritillaria even a little deeper. Fritillaria bloom better when they are planted deep. Plant them in clusters rather than in a straight line. Plant them with a few other bulbs such as tulips and daffodils and with other plants that do not need a lot of water. Fritillaria bulbs rot easily if they are kept too wet, especially during the summer after the leaves have shriveled up and died.



Allium Giganteum are sometimes referred to as the

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'Onion Flower'. They are in the onion family and the bulb looks like a big onion. They bloom late in the spring, with the 'Late-Tulips'. They produce a large, round, purple flower that stands above most of the other flowers in your gardens. One gardener uses florist paint to spray his allium blossoms red, white, and blue. Allium are drought resistant and a very rugged bulb.

Planting Pansies In The Fall

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



Pansies grow best where they get plenty of sun during the fall and winter but they like the shady areas during the summer. Pansies are considered bi-ennials or short-lived perennials because of their temperature requirements. Because of the unusual temperature requirements, it is usually better to treat them as a cold-season annual flower and just remove them every summer when they start to decline.

In our climate try planting pansies in gardens that you normally use for hot-weather annuals during the summer. Plant them a little farther apart this fall so there is room to plant your annual flowers in between them next spring. As the pansy plants start to become leggy and decline next summer, the hot weather annuals will take over and you can remove the pansy plants. The Bountiful City Parks Department did this last fall in a garden at 400 North and Main. That planting area was colorful last fall, winter, spring, summer and is still pretty this fall, even though they removed the pansies during the summer. The garden was never without color.

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 back pansy plants after they bloom helps to keep the plants more compact and bushy, and it stimulates 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 and you don't have to waste the flowers. You can make them last even longer if you will change the water daily and make fresh cuts on the stems as 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 also move the containers from area to area 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. Start fertilizing them 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.

Johnny Jump-ups are relatives to pansies. Just like pansies, you can plant them in the fall and watch them bloom throughout the winter season. Johnny Jump-ups re-seed readily so remove the old plants as they start to diminish during the hot summer weather. You may find a few new Johnny jump-up seedlings popping up in your garden for several more years.

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**.



Trees are dropping their leaves and it is important to prevent these leaves from laying on your lawn very long. Leaves will shade the grass and can even kill the lawn during the winter. In addition, leaf cover stimulates a winter lawn disease known as snow mold. The easiest way to dispose of these unwanted leaves is to simply mow them, bag them, and use them as compost in your gardens. Continue to mow your lawn at 1.5" to 2" long until your lawn stops growing. Once the lawn stops growing, mow your lawn as short as you can, about 1" long.

Many lawn weeds are still growing right now. **Bonide Weed Beater** is a good spray to kill most weeds in the lawn including dandelions, morning glory, and clover. **Weed Beater** will not kill any 'grassy weeds'; just the 'broadleaf weeds'. It is very hard to control the grassy weeds (crabgrass, foxtail grass, barnyard grass) this time of year. If you have any of these types of grassy weeds just pull as many as possible and apply a **Crabgrass & Spurge Control** in the spring to prevent these types of weeds from germinating next year.

Don't Give Up Now

Don't quit pulling weeds from your garden yet. Many weeds tend to 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 flowers and seeds early in the spring. It is much easier to kill it in the fall, as it is starting to grow, than trying to kill it in the spring, when it is producing seeds. Deep-rooted perennial weeds can also produce enough seeds in the fall to supply you with weed seeds that may continue to germinate for the next seven years.



Hand pull, hoe, cultivate, or apply weed preventers now and right up to frost. 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 will help prevent a weed problem next spring. The type of weed preventer you apply depends on the type of plants you grow in that garden. Stop by for a Weed Preventer 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.

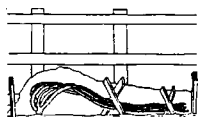


Chemical controls such as **WeedBeater**, **Finale**, **Killzall**, or **Roundup** will kill this weed - but timing is critical. Spray wild morning glory this fall as soon as the temperature lowers to 40F, but while it is still growing. The more leaves that are present, the more effectively the chemical will be absorbed and translocated throughout the plant. Spraying after the first frost that kills your tomatoes and cucumbers is the best time of the entire year. After the first frost, morning glory starts going dormant by moving sugars from the leaves back into the root system for winter storage so, with a fall spray, you can get more of the herbicide down deep into the root system and 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 germinate for several more years to come. Regular cultivation of your yard 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 or download it from our website.

Fall Rose Care

Fortunately we do not have to do as much to protect roses as the gardeners in colder climates have to do. In some areas, gardeners actually have to tip their roses over and bury them in trenches to protect them from winter injury. In this area we only need to follow a few simple procedures and hope that we don't have an extremely cold winter.



A. 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. **B.** Reduce the amount of water you apply to your roses this fall, again to help them 'harden off' before winter arrives. **C.** Don't pick rose flowers any more this fall. Let the blossoms mature into rose hips. Hip formation also helps the rose bush to 'harden off' for winter. **D.** Prune your rose canes (except climbing roses and shrub roses) 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. **E.** Wait until spring to do your major rose pruning and shaping. In the spring, after the danger of frost is past, prune your bush roses to 14" to 20" tall. **F.** Mulch your roses to protect the roots from the severely cold temperatures. Let the ground and the roots freeze first, to become dormant, before covering them. Mulch roses with six inches of leaves, **Soil Pep**, **Small 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 during the winter.

Fall Pruning

Don't prune plants too severely just before winter. Pruning stimulates growth. New growth, just before winter, makes the 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 (mock orange, potentilla, spiraea, etc.) after the leaves drop off this fall. Don't trim your **'spring flowering'** shrubs (forsythia, quince, lilac, etc.) until after they bloom next spring. If you prune your 'spring flowering' shrubs in the fall, you will remove most of the flower buds for next spring. **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, birch, 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 even in April. Also, wait to prune your early-flowering trees until after they finish blooming in the spring, so you can enjoy their blossoms first.

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 how they will look all winter.

Vegetable Garden Care

Watch the weather. If there is a threat of frost try to cover your plants with a frost blanket, or harvest your vegetables. Peppers, cucumbers, summer squash, tomatoes, and many 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, or even a month.



Tomatoes need an average daily temperature of 65F and a nighttime temperature above 57F to ripen. If temperatures stay below this, pick 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.

You can plant Garlic in the fall instead of waiting until spring. Fall is actually the best time to plant garlic. Plant it anytime the ground is not frozen, but it responds best if it has 4 or 5 weeks of growth before the ground freezes solid.

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 tips and storing vegetables. Please stop by and pick one up or download it from our website.

Dig Summer Bulbs Now

The most common summer flowering bulbs are not really bulbs at all, they are tubers (begonias, dahlias), corms (gladiolus), and rhizomes (cannas).



Gladiolus, dahlias, begonias, and cannas are too tender to be left in the soil through the winter. After the leaves freeze and die, dig the 'bulbs' carefully. Wash each bulb thoroughly and dust it with **Bulb Dust** before storing. Divide your bulbs next spring as you take them out of winter storage to plant them.

Store your bulbs in wooden or cardboard boxes rather than in plastic bags so they can 'breathe'. Glads need to be kept dry in storage but begonias, dahlias and cannas should be kept moist during the winter. Peatmoss or vermiculite is good to store bulbs in; it helps to control both the moisture and the temperature. Check your bulbs during the winter. If the bulbs are too dry add a little water. Keep your bulbs cool but do not let them freeze. Store your bulbs between 35 to 40 degrees.

If your gladiolus did not bloom well, or, if the leaves

turned brown before the blossoms finished blooming, soak the bulbs in hot water (112 to 120 degrees) mixed with **Safer's Insecticidal soap** for 30 minutes. This temperature will kill the **Gladiola Thrips**, a tiny insect that causes the flowers to die prematurely. Do not soak the bulbs in water over 120 degrees or you will kill the bulb.

Peach 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, some of the time. Two other problems that can cause sap to ooze out of the trunk of stone fruits are **Bacterial Canker** and **Physical Injury**, 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. This disease can kill your tree if you do not treat it. Remove the sap and scrub the entire area with **Copper Fungicide**. It is very important that you treat this problem this fall; don't wait until spring. If you see this problem during the spring or summer you should treat it every three or four weeks until the symptoms go away; but make sure it is not just damage from the peach tree borer!

Kids climbing peach trees or extra weight loads from ripening fruit can cause physical stress in the crotch of the tree. If enough stress is applied, some of the bark can separate and allow sap to ooze from the wound. It is not uncommon to see sap oozing from several crotches in peach trees after harvesting peaches or after a wind storm moves the heavy laden branches.

Pine Tree Care

We recommend that you do not fertilize deciduous trees and shrubs in the fall, but if you have a pine tree or spruce tree that does not have good color or that appears to be under stress, go ahead and fertilize it with a good tree or shrub fertilizer that contains iron. 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 and moved a little earlier than deciduous plants; but it is just a good rule of thumb to wait until leaves drop off surrounding deciduous plants first.

Do not be alarmed if your pine trees, yews, junipers,

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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, so don't be too surprised if a lot of needles turn yellow and drop off your plants this fall.

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. Don't be alarmed, it is a natural occurrence for all coniferous evergreens (pine trees) to shed their old needles each fall. Contrary to the name "evergreen", these trees do not keep their needles indefinitely. These 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 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 Yews.

Dividing Perennials

One of the joys of a perennial garden is watching the plants grow and fill the spaces allotted to them. However, perennial flowers can out grow their assigned areas quickly unless they are moved and divided periodically. Most perennial flowers do not know when to stop growing, you need to make that decision for them.



Dividing perennial flowers is not a bad thing for the plant. In fact, many plants are invigorated by dividing them regularly. Don't be afraid of breaking roots, stems, or plants as you divide them. This is a necessary evil when dealing with strong rooted plants. Don't be afraid of throwing away extra plants, or unwanted plants, or giving extra plants to neighbors. The hardy perennial flowers will take over and dominate the weaker varieties if you don't do some refereeing. Sometimes you may need to remove the entire plant.

Divide spring and summer blooming perennials in the fall, as soon as the temperatures begin to moderate. Divide fall blooming perennials either in the spring or after they finish blooming in the fall, if there are still several weeks of good weather before the ground freezes hard. Divide perennials as often as the plant overtakes its assigned area. You may need to divide your Shasta Daisy or Coreopsis every two or three years. Phlox, Astilbe, and Daylilies may only need to be divided every 5 to 6 years. Peonies only need to be divided every 10 to 15 years.

Feed Your Garden Soil - not just your plants

Your garden's soil condition is the most important part of gardening success. Without the proper soil conditions, gardening can be a chore for you, and your plants will not respond and grow the way you want them to grow. Some of the insect and disease problems you struggle with during the summer can be prevented just by making sure your soil is well prepared before you plant in it.



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, microbes, and other critters. Soil is full of life and deserves your attention. With good soil, gardening will be more fun. The soil will be easier to plant in, cultivate, and it will be easier to grow your plants. Perfect soil is hard to come by in most home gardens and may take a little extra effort to achieve. The best way to improve your garden soil is by adding **Organic Materials** every year, and the best time to apply **Organic Materials** is in the fall, not in the spring. Mix as much 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.

Next spring we will have a new brand of fertilizer from the **Dr. Earth** fertilizer company that will feed your soil. It contains seven different types of beneficial soil bacteria and mycorrhizae. These microbes will multiply once you add them to your soil and *you will be feeding your soil and your plants at the same time*.

We have an excellent handout on soils and mulches. We also have a handout introducing our new line of **Dr. Earth** organic fertilizers. Please stop by and pick up your free copy, or download it from our website.

Fall Sprays

Winter is almost here, but not quite. You may still have a few insect and disease problems you need to spray this fall. If you have any of these problems in your yard stop by so we can tell you how to control them.



Euonymus & Lilac Blight - Spray lilacs and burning bushes that show small, stunted, yellowish leaves this summer. Spray them with copper as soon as 90% of the leaves drop off this fall. Repeat the same spray just before the leaves emerge in the spring.

Peach & Nectarine -Coryneum Blight - Spray them with copper as soon as the leaves drop off this fall. Repeat the same spray just before the leaves emerge in the spring.

Boxelder Bugs - These pests are a nuisance all fall, winter and spring. They are not harmful to your home. They are hard to control so if you can kill them before they

reach your house you will have much less trouble controlling them. **Eight** is the best spray we have found to kill these pests. Spray the foundation every two or three weeks this fall and winter.

Slugs & Snails - The best control for slugs and snails is using bait or hand picking them. **Persistence is the key**, don't quit trying to kill these pests until the ground is frozen solid and the pests have gone into hibernation for the winter.

Spidermites - Spray badly infected plants (Alberta Spruce, potentilla, roses, raspberry, etc.) with a **Dormant oil** as soon as the temperature will stay below 70 degrees. The oil puts a long lasting coat on the plants that smothers eggs. Repeat the dormant oil spray in the spring just as the plants begin to grow.

Aphids - These little insects vary in colors from clear to black and from green to red to yellow. Aphids begin to cluster on tree trunks and in shrubs during the fall. They suck as much sap from the plant as possible to prepare for winter. Aphids are particularly noticeable on apple trees and willow trees in the fall. If your apple tree looks like it is covered with cotton, look closely. You will see a tiny aphid that is covered with a cottony material. This aphid is called the *Woolly Apple Aphid*. Spray the plant thoroughly, with **Dormant Oil Spray**, to control all of these pests. Don't wait until spring.

Spiders - Spray the outside of your house with either **Eight** or **Conquest**, especially around windows and doors to prevent these pests from entering your home. Once spiders are inside the house you can either use a **Spider Trap** or an indoor **Spider and Roach Spray** to try to keep them under control.

Winter Plant Hardiness

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 just the cold temperatures that cause the problems. Our native plants are acclimatized and synchronized to our local climate. They respond to the day length and temperature 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 healthy 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 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.

Few plants in containers can survive winter without some winter protection. Some pots may crack or break if left outside for the winter, exposing plant roots to the air. Most plants in pots that die in the winter die from the lack of water, not from the cold. You need to remember that all roots need water year round and if mother nature does not provide it with snowfall you will have to water them occasionally. A pot in a sunny spot will need water more often than a pot in the shade. 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.

Winter Tree Care

Bark splitting is a fairly common problem on many trees in this area. Bark splitting is often caused 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 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 one 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 rather than benefit the tree. Nice warm November and December temperatures after a cold October also create conditions that may cause the bark to split - the tree started to go dormant and then started to grow again.

The best way to prevent splitting bark is to fertilize trees in the early spring instead of the fall. Keep trees



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moist until they drop their leaves and then stop watering them, except for any newly planted trees. You can also wrap the trunk of any susceptible trees (especially young trees) with tree wrap or paint the trunk with white paint.

If your trees already have a split in the bark, the best way to help the tree recover and repair the damage 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 better to remove the unhealthy tree and start over rather than trying to save it.

Sunscauld is another type of injury that can kill a tree during the winter. This injury is deadly 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 November and December can make the trees susceptible to sunburn during the winter. Sunlight reflects off the snow and 'burns' the bark (similar to a person that is ice fishing 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.

Prevent sunscald by wrapping the trunk or by painting the trunk white in the late-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 to both use and 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.



Pond Care Tips

If you take a few minutes this fall to winterize your pond properly you can enjoy it



again next spring. Stop feeding your fish when the water temperature drops below 50 degrees. Fish will survive the winter without food. Excess food in the pond will create bacteria that could kill your fish. Clean all the leaves and other organic materials that accumulate in the pond; to prevent a buildup of bacteria in the water. Remove any tender pond plants and set the winter hardy plants in the bottom of the pond for the winter, be sure to remove any dead leaves.

Do not let your pond's surface completely freeze. Oxygen must be able to get into the water and carbon dioxide must be able to escape. You can use a pond heater or run a small pump to keep the surface from freezing completely. Styrafoam blocks or rubber balls can also help prevent the entire surface from freezing. Remove the styrafoam or the ball in the morning and replace it in the evening. If the water surface should freeze solid do not break it with a hammer. The shock waves may kill the fish. Set a pan of boiling water on the ice so it can melt a hole in the ice.

If your pond is less than eighteen inches deep, the water will probably freeze solid and your fish will die no matter what you try. However, with proper care your pond can be fun and enjoyable for years to come.

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 (wind, 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 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, Lime-mound Spiraea, Crimson Pygmy Barberry, Glennora Seedless Grape Vines, Blueberry Plants, Virginia Creeper, Boston Ivy, and Heavenly Bamboo.**

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

If your plant doesn't change color like it is supposed to, try changing a few of its growing conditions. Make sure the plant is healthy and not in an extremely hot location. Make sure the plant has adequate soil moisture. Try making the soil pH a little more acidic by adding sulphur to the soil next spring.

Early Leaf Color

Each year we look forward to trees and shrubs turning color and standing out in the yard with their impressive display of colorful leaves. However, if the plant changes color too early it could be a warning sign that the plant is under unusual stress. A closer look at the plant might be warranted, especially if your plant started changing colors in August or early-September.

Weather conditions are a big factor that contributes to stress in plants. Soil conditions and watering schedules also influence the amount of stress a plant encounters. Leaf scorch is very noticeable this fall along with some trees turning color prematurely. Make sure to deep water



trees once a month until winter, to help these trees survive the winter.

Early fall color can also be caused by root or trunk problems. Root problems can include; cultivating too close to the plant, covering the drip line with too much extra soil, too much fertilizer or other chemicals in the soil, and the most common problem - too much or too little water. Trunk problems can include damage from lawnmowers or string trimmers, mouse or gopher damage, splitting bark from previous injuries, a string or wire tied around the trunk to hold it up straight, or even a string used to hold the burlap on the rootball when it was first planted.

Plant diseases also cause stress to plants that can make them turn color prematurely. A common problem for both burning bush and lilac plants is a blight disease. Many of these plants may be infected by this disease and may actually die if they are not treated. The best control for blight diseases is to spray the trunk and branches of both the infected and non-infected plants with **Copper Fungicide** as soon as 90% of the leaves have dropped off the plant. Spray the plant again with copper just before the leaves emerge in the spring. Fertilize the plants heavily each spring before they start to grow and fertilize the '*stressed out plants*' every three to four weeks all summer with **Schultz All Purpose Plant Food.**

Winter Care Of Houseplants

Just as we slow down as the days shorten, so do houseplants. In order to keep your house plants happy and healthy through the Fall and Winter, give your houseplants a little extra attention, some TLC. Here are a few pointers to keep in mind.



When bringing plants inside after spending the summer on the porch or patio, it's a good practice to spray your plants with an all-purpose insecticide, such as **Schultz Houseplant and Garden Insect Spray**. It is best to spray plants at least twice - at one week intervals, to make sure you have killed all of your unwanted guests. If you find you have insects crawling out of the soil, sprinkle a little **Systemic Insecticide Granules** on top of the soil and that should take care of those creepy crawlers.

Try to place your plants in light conditions similar to those outside. They will go through a short acclimation period because the inside of your home is much darker than the outside. Don't place a plant that has been in the direct sunlight into a dark corner. Don't be afraid to prune your plants. Houseplants like the hibiscus, ivy, philodendrons, and bougainvilleas can really take quite a haircut! Pruning also allows your blooming plants to take a short rest after their profuse blooming through the summer.

Remember that the water and fertilizer requirements for your plants will be reduced through the winter and you will have to readjust your schedule. A plant that needed watering once a week outside may need only to be watered once every two weeks when inside. When winter really sets in and you turn your furnace on, it will affect the amount of water your plant requires. Drier, warmer air means the plant will dry out more quickly. One of the biggest "killers" of house plants is over-watering. While you should check your plants once a week, they won't necessarily need water every week. To increase the humidity for your plants, group them together or place them on trays with gravel and water. Misting is helpful but the effects are short term. Turning on a humidifier, especially if you have ferns, is very beneficial. Fertilize your plants once a month during the winter with **Schultz Liquid Plant Food** instead of the every two weeks you fertilized them during the summer.

Get in the habit of turning your plants weekly (rotate the pot half a turn) to prevent them from becoming one-sided or leaning toward the light. Ficus trees are notorious for being lush and full on one side and flat and skimpy on the other if they are not rotated.

Hopefully, these tips will help your house plants thrive this winter and help to convince you that you too can be a successful indoor gardener.

Store Tools Properly

You probably thought your gardening chores were behind you - not quite. Don't forget to tuck away your gardening tools for the winter. Too often we forget to prepare our tools and equipment for the winter. A little attention now will be rewarded with years of good service from your gardening tools.



Change the oil in all your power tools before storing them for winter. Scrape off all the matted grass or dirt to prevent rust from forming. Either drain all the gasoline from the tank or add a fuel stabilizer to keep the gas fresh. It also helps to keep the carburetor from plugging, especially in two cycle motors (weed eaters and chainsaws). This little step could save you a trip to the mechanic next spring. Lubricate all the moving parts and sharpen the blades.

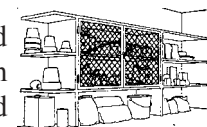
Use your old lawnmower oil to clean and oil your shovels, rakes, hoes, loppers, and many other gardening tools. Fill a bucket with clean sand and put your old lawnmower oil in the sand. Once you get enough oil in the sand the sand does a great job of cleaning and oiling the tools. Just scrape off most of the dirt and push your tool into the sand. After a day or two remove the tool, wipe off the sand and oil, and your tool will be ready for use or for winter storage.

Does your rake or hoe fall out of its handle socket while you are using it? This can be very frustrating when you are trying to do your yardwork. When a tool falls out of its handle it does not mean the tool is junk, broken, or that the tool needs to be replaced. It simply means the handle has dried out and the wood has shrunk inside the metal ferrule. You can make the wood swell again by soaking the handle in water. However, your handle will just dry out and the head will just fall off again when the water evaporates. Instead of soaking your tool in water, fill the metal ferrule with either linseed oil or motor oil (recycled lawnmower oil works great). Set the tool upright so the oil will soak into the wood instead of running all over the handle and floor. Keep adding oil in the ferrule as long as the wood will soak it up. You may need to add a little oil every week or two. The more oil the handle absorbs the better. The head will stay on its handle longer and your tools will not break as easy. A "dried out" handle is much weaker than a handle soaked in oil.

Drain the water from your garden hoses and sprinklers and hang them up to dry before putting them away for storage. Hoses left outdoors during the winter are likely to crack and split, especially if they still have water inside.

Winter Chemical Storage

Your chemical storage area should be secure from unwanted visitors, both human and animals. Good lighting and ventilation are important to consider. Proper ventilation can prevent volatile chemicals from contaminating other materials in storage. Store flammable prod-



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ucts outside living areas and away from ignition sources. Keep chemicals and fertilizers cool and dry. Extreme temperature variations can cause unwanted problems such as frozen, ruptured containers, or hot, volatile gases. Too much humidity or moisture may cause paper bags and metal containers to disintegrate prematurely. Do not store bags of fertilizer directly on the floor as it can absorb moisture. Wet fertilizer turns into hard bricks making it unusable.

Finally, store all chemicals in their original containers that have legible labels. Do not ever transfer chemicals into an empty food container. Do not use an empty pesticide container to store food or water, even if the container has been thoroughly washed. Do not store pesticides near food, medicine, or cleaning materials. One way to minimize pesticide storage problems is to plan ahead and buy fertilizers and pesticides one season at a time. The small containers that seemed 'expensive' in the spring may actually be the 'best buy' in the fall.

Gopher Problems

Gophers, voles and other rodents are problems every year, especially in the fall. Gophers are active all winter and can do a considerable amount of damage without gardeners knowing about it - until it is too late. Gophers are solitary animals. They only congregate during the mating season. The rest of the year they tend to live by themselves. One gopher can burrow up to 800 feet of tunnels, usually 12 to 18 inches below the soil surface.

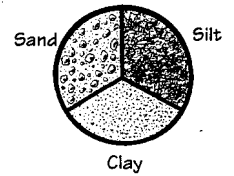
Four ways are available to control these pests. **1. Repellents.** Repellants do not get rid of the pest, they just make it go to your neighbor's yard. Two types of gopher repellants are available, one made out of garlic and the other made out of castor oil. **2. Traps.** If you use a gopher trap be sure to attach a wire to the trap so the gopher doesn't just pull the trap away. **3. Gopher Gasser.** As long as the rodent is in the vicinity of ignition, the gas can travel through the tunnels and kill the rodent. **4. Poison Bait.** The problem with bait is putting the bait where the gopher can find it and eat it. You can open the exit hole and put the bait down into the main tunnel or you can get a special bait dispenser that makes it easy to put the bait right down into the tunnel without having to dig through the exit hole. We have also found a bait station, made out of PVC pipe, that seems to work well in attracting gophers and rats. It provides a perfect location to place the bait out of reach of dogs and cats. The bait station keeps the bait out of the weather, and it provides a perfect place for the rodent to find its last dinner. None of these methods are 100% foolproof (gopher proof) but with persistence, you can get rid of your gopher pest.

Say, what type of mud is that?

Good gardeners recognize that soil is actually made up of a variety of materials, defined according to size. Sand



particles are the largest of the three types of soil particles. When mixed with water, sand particles settle out of the suspension first. Silt particles come next and are medium sized. Clay particles are the smallest. Sand



provides the best drainage in a garden but holds the least water and minerals. Clay holds water but often ties up minerals so additional fertilizer may be required. Silty soils share characteristics of both sand and clay. A combination of all three of these soil particles make the best mud.

Newsletter Update

A copy of this newsletter is also available on our Website at www.JLGardenCenter.com. The newsletter edition, contained on our website, is in larger print so you can read it a little easier. It also contains a few extra articles that we could not fit in this edition of our newsletter. The articles on the website version that are not in this copy are: **Rhododendron & Azalea Care; Spiders Are Good Guys; Fall Planting Questions; Don't Give Up Now on Insects;** and a more detailed version of why leaves change color and why they drop off trees. If you would like to receive this newsletter by email, and receive our weekly gardening reminders, either let us know or sign up on our website.



We also have all of our handouts available in a PDF file format that you can download from our website.

Rhododendron & Azalea Care

The Wasatch Front is a "Freeze - Thaw - Freeze - Thaw" area. Many Rhododendron's leaves naturally curl and droop at 20 degrees, to reduce the surface area and to conserve water. When the temperature rises above 20 degrees the leaves uncurl (become turgid) and need to take water from the soil to replenish that which was lost. Rhododendrons actually use a considerable amount of water during the winter, especially those varieties with large leaves.



Some winters provide adequate water with rain and snow melt. However, most winters we need to provide additional water at least once or twice, usually in January. Azaleas are not as susceptible to winter dehydration (winter kill) because many of them drop their leaves each fall. The evergreen azalea varieties may also shed some leaves in order to survive.

Winter preparation begins early-fall. Start withholding water (just like roses) mid-September to help the plants "harden off" for winter. Your objective is to slow the rate of growth and to increase the carbohydrate content of the sap, which helps prevent the sap from freezing. Water your rhododendrons well after the ground begins to freeze but before the ground is frozen solid (early-December). After

the soil is completely frozen, cover your plants with six to ten inches of mulch (leaves, soil pep, straw, etc.). If you apply this mulch before the ground is frozen you are not helping the plant harden off and may cause more problems for your plants. Mulching helps minimize water loss and helps prevent the shallow root system from freezing as hard.

If extra water is required during the winter, water your plants when the mulch isn't frozen and when the plants can absorb water. Watering in sub-freezing temperatures will not help. Brown leaf margins in the spring is a sign that your plant did not get enough water during the winter. One of the best ways to water a plant in the winter is to **CAREFULLY** shovel snow under or around your plants. This provides water when the plant really needs it, not when you want to give it to them. Add more snow as the snow melts. One other way to prevent water loss during the winter is to spray your plant's leaves with **Wilt Prufe** before the temperature gets real cold. Spray your plants early-December when the temperature is above freezing and will stay above freezing for several hours after application. Make sure your plant is not dry when you spray with **Wilt Prufe** so the water that is already in the plant can be trapped inside the leaves.

The Fall Leaf Drop

Every fall deciduous trees and shrubs go through that transition period where their leaves turn from green to beautiful shades of yellow, red, orange, crimson and other colors. These fabulous fall colors look even more beautiful when surrounded with the dark green foliage of pine and spruce. To most folks, this is just the 'changing of the Fall leaves season' and there is just a couple of colorful weeks before 'Old Man Winter' sets in. But, what really causes these leaves to turn color and then drop off the trees?

Leaves change color because of a combination of naturally occurring chemical substances in the plants and the plant's environment. These chemical substances, known as plant hormones, regulate plant growth and development. They regulate when the plant is to grow and when the plant is not to grow. There are five groups of these hormones, three of which promote plant growth and two of which inhibit plant growth. The three growth promoters are auxins, gibberellins and cytokinins. The two growth inhibitors are ethylene and abscisic acid. When the levels of growth promoters are higher than the levels of growth inhibitors, the plant is actively growing. When levels of growth inhibitors are higher than levels of growth promoting hormones, growth of the plant slows and stops.

Day length and temperature regulate when these hormones become active in the plant. In the spring, as the day length becomes longer and the temperatures begin to warm, growth promoters reach higher levels in the plant - which starts the plant actively growing. In autumn, the day length

becomes shorter and the temperatures cooler, causing the growth inhibitors to reach higher levels than growth promoters in the plant. Ethylene and abscisic acid reach levels that override the growth promoters, causing the plant to go dormant.

Once the growth inhibitors reach higher levels than growth promoters, chlorophyll, the green pigment in plants, is lost. Other pigments then become more obvious in the leaves color. The yellow and orange pigments are called carotenoids and are quite obvious in trees and shrubs like poplars, green ash, chokecherry, birch, larch, currants. Another pigment called anthocyanin is responsible for the reddish colors in the leaves of trees and shrubs such as dogwoods, barberry, some maples, cotoneaster, Virginia creeper, mountain ash and burning bush.

The levels of ethylene and abscisic acid continue to build up as the days shorten and temperatures get cooler. At the base of the leaves petiole (leaf stalk) which is fastened to the twig or stem of the tree, a bump develops due to the build up of ethylene and abscisic acid. This bump is known as the abscission layer. You may notice this bump on the end of an apple stalk and other fruit also. As the chemicals build up in this abscission layer, the cells become softened and the leaf or fruit finally breaks away and falls to the ground. Immediately after leaf fall, a corky tissue develops, closing the wound on the stem side of the abscission layer. This healing layer of corky tissue forms the leaf scar on the twig. This leaf scar is located at a node, directly below a leaf bud.

If you look closely at the twigs on your trees and shrubs now that the leaves have fallen, you will notice that next springs leaf and flower buds (flower buds only on spring flowering plants) have all ready developed. The smaller buds are the leaf buds and the larger buds are the flower buds. These tiny, highly compressed leaves and flower buds are covered with scale-like structures called bud scales. These overlapping bud scales protect the delicate leaves and flower buds from the harsh winter climate, they are called dormant buds. These highly compressed leaf and flower buds grow very quickly in the spring because they have all ready been formed. This is why lilacs and forsythia can have such beautiful large flowers so early in the spring.

Why do Leaves Change Color?

The process of leaves changing color and falling off a tree is an actual growth process. The plant uses energy to complete this process. A healthy plant drops its leaves: a dead tree doesn't lose its leaves unless they are physically removed (wind, shaking). Leaves contain four type of pigments which influence their colors in both summer and fall.

* **Chlorophyll.** This pigment gives leaves their basic green color and is essential for photosynthesis: the chemi-

cal reaction that enables plants to use sunlight to manufacture sugars for food and to turn carbon dioxide into oxygen. Chlorophyll is the most dominant pigment and masks most other pigments.

* **Carotenoids.** This pigment produces yellow colors in plants. Orange colors are produced by a combination of both carotenoid and anthocyanins. Carotenoids produce the brilliant yellow leaves in birch, ginkgo and norway maple leaves. Corn, Carrots, Daffodils, and but-tercups have carotenoids.

* **Tannins.** This pigment turns leaves brown. English oak, beech, and sycamore trees are trees that contain a large quantity of tannin. This pigment also turns yellow, orange, or red leaves brown after they drop to the ground.

* **Anthocyanins.** This pigment produces pink, red, and purple colors in leaves. Not all leaves contain this pigment and this pigment is more finicky. The amount of light and the acidity of the soil determines how much anthocyanins a plant will produce. The more sunlight, the redder the leaves will be. The more acid the soil, the redder the leaves, and the more alkaline the soil, the more purple. Red apples, concord grapes, blueberries, cherries, strawberries and plums contain anthocyanins. Anthocyanins produce the red leaves in red maples, burning bush, oak, and sumac.

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 can also influence how fast the color changes and how brilliant the change will be. The soil ph has a big impact on how bright the reds and purples will be in some plants. For example, a burning bush growing in a soil with a high pH will not always produce the brilliant red colors that the same plant would have produced in a different soil condition. Try mixing a cup of vinegar in 5 gallons of water and pouring the solution around your plants (not on your plants) once or twice in the summer to change the soil ph. It may help improve the fall colors in that plant.

Colors are their brightest when warm fall days are accompanied with very cool nights (below 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. Watch the mountains, some years the colors are brilliant, other years they are not so spectacular.

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-leafed 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!

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 dur-

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ing 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 in the soil just below the frost-line in the soil. Rotovating the soil helps to kill these pests.

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 caterpillar 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.

Most borers that attack trees and shrubs spend the winter as larvae inside the host tree. They spend much of the warm weather, during the winter, tunneling around and eating the tree.

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 kill 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 spiders inside your home are not dangerous, they are a nuisance. Two spiders are dangerous. The Black Widow spider and the Aggressive House Spider (Hobo Spider) are two spiders that can cause serious injury. The **Hobo Spider Elimination Kit** (a spider Trap)



traps and kills all different kinds of spiders; not just the bad ones. This kit contains five pre-baited cards that attracts and traps spiders. You can put spider traps in several different areas of your house to catch spiders; it is an excellent way to control the unwanted spiders in your home.



Most nuisance pests are very hard to control such as boxelder bugs, flies, ants, 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 wall. 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. Perhaps one of the best ways to control these nuisance pests is to use a Trap. Many different types of traps are available and safe. They will trap many different types of insects for several months.

Next time you see a spider just repeat this sentence: **"Spiders are good guys. Spiders are good guys".**