



Garden Revival Class

Here are the 8 key steps to spruce up your garden and prep for Fall!

1. **Water:** If not already in place, install a drip irrigation system and an easy-to-program battery-operated timer.
 - After soil temps drop to an average of 75 and below, you'll want to decrease your watering schedule. Usually every other day for 15-20 mins for raised beds is plenty
 - The drip system we use and recommend can be purchased online from Drip Depot - [Row crop drip system](#)
2. **Add nutrients back into the soil:**
 - Add 2"-4" of fresh compost or raised bed mix to the entire growing space
 - Add fresh castings in areas surrounding fresh transplants and anything that survived the Summer
3. **Mulch:** Add a 2" layer of mulch on top of your garden soil, and tuck it nicely under all the plants. Avoid burying drip tapes. Mulch should be placed under your irrigation system or it may clog your emitters. You should also add mulch to areas surrounding your raised beds, row crops, vines and fruit trees. Mulch is essential for keeping your soil temp insulated and regulated. It also helps in suppressing weeds and helps retain moisture. In addition, mulching will also condition your soil and break down as organic matter.
4. **Shade & Frost Cloth:** We use 50% shade cloth and recommend building a permanent, sturdy structure if possible. Keeping your plants shaded in the hot afternoons is critical to keep them alive throughout the hottest months of the year. Plants should be under 50% shade by 11am-noon at the latest. A local company to purchase from is the [Arizona Bag Company](#)
 - Shade cloth can come down for the winter in November if desired
 - Prepare to use frost cloth for nights that drop under 45 for to protect all nightshades

5. **Cover Crops:** Choose which cover crops are worth saving and extending for another harvest. If melons and squash are finally starting to produce flowers, add some compost and prune away dead foliage.
6. **Remove spent and dried up plants:** Better to make space for the Fall season approaching
7. **Companion Plant:** Plant Fall herbs and flowers to attract beneficial insects in.
8. **Succession Plant favorite heat lovers:** Now is a perfect time for one more round of night shades.

Other helpful tips:

1. Apply our microbial rich worm tea to all plants in your veggie gardens, flowers, shrubs, vines and fruit trees! It will help thicken the leaves and protect them from sunburn. Plus you get 50% off when attending a class so take advantage! Use within 4 hours of purchase.
2. Set out a birdbath with fresh water to keep the wildlife hydrated and off of your fruit.
3. Grow vertically- we love using trellises for tomatoes, cucumbers and legumes. This is a very effective way to increase space and keep plants healthier. It will also improve/ increase yield.
4. Try to be preventative in keeping pests away instead of waiting until an infestation has occurred. Improve soil health by adding worm castings, compost, and mulch before each new season. Healthy soil is key in keeping infestations away.
5. Spacing plants appropriately - at least 12" apart from one another - can help tremendously. Observe plants daily if possible.
6. Purchase a helpful insect identification book. It's very important to be able to identify beneficial insects vs. harmful insects. This book will also list organic methods in controlling bugs if the issue arises - [Vegetable Garden Pest Handbook](#)