



Putting Your Garden to Bed?

Top Tips from Tena vanAndel

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Your gardens are alive and growing all year round but there are some things that you can do in October and November to keep them healthy and strong over the winter. These are not exhaustive lists of what to do but we hope that you will find a few new tips to help keep your garden healthy, biodiverse full of beauty.

October

- Leave your leaves on the lawn (if not too deep), in your veggie and flower gardens. This is Mother Nature's free fertilizer. Cut stems of perennials to about 12 inches. Leaving the garden debris not only adds nutrition, improves soil structure, it creates a home for many pollinators and friendly insects. Be sure to remove diseased plant material!
- If you have tender trees exposed to harsh winter elements, consider erecting a burlap screen to protect from sun and wind.
- Great time to transplant or move shrubs, trees and perennials.
- Plant your garlic!
- You can leave carrots and turnips in the ground over the winter. Protect them with a layer of mulch, straw or old carpet – if the ground freezes, you won't be able to pull them out. The veggies protect themselves against the cold using a process that concentrates the sugars- making them sweet and delicious in the spring.
- Take a photo of your veggie garden, or draw what is where, so you can rotate your crops in the spring.
- Bring your house plants indoors when the temperature indoors is the same as the temperature outdoors. Plants don't like a drastic change in temperature.

November

- Plant your bulbs and be sure to add extras to make up for the ones that the squirrels get!
- Don't prune your Oak trees unless necessary and wait until November/December until the to prevent the spread of Oak wilt.
- Start forcing your Paperwhites, Amaryllis, and Hyacinths.

When the ground freezes, if you wish to add protection to the roots, add a couple inches of mulch.

Resources

www.TorontoMasterGardeners.ca

- Ask a Master Gardener – online answers to gardening questions
- Gardening Guides
- Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube

Master Gardener Info Line 416-397-1345

- Leave a message with your name and contact information for a call back

Toronto Botanical Garden

- Demonstration gardens
- Courses, talks, lectures
- Library – one of the largest in Canada!

Notes about your fall garden preparation for winter:

