



Winterize Your Yard

General Garden Care for Winter

Clean up:

- Pick up fallen leaves, grass clippings, spent blooms, pots, sticks, and trimmings. Dig spent vegetable plants
- Add undiseased organic material saved from clean-up to compost pile

Frost Protection:

- Mulch beds of bulbs, annuals, perennials and other tender plants for frost protection. Pick or protect tomatoes, pepper, eggplant, and other tender produce.
- Harvest peaches and plums before frost
- Move houseplants indoors before temperatures fall below 50°
- Water woody plants generously before expected frost so plant tissues won't need to seek moisture from frozen soil. Apply tree wrap to trunks of these young trees—apple, elm, hard or sugar maple, linden, poplar, willow. Their bark is susceptible to frost cracking
- Provide protection for all tender plantings.

Pests and Diseases:

- Use least toxic effective treatment for common garden pests
- Throw away fallen leaves of plants affected by virus or fungus infection. *Do not add to your compost pile*

Propagate:

- Take tip cuttings of geraniums, fuchsias before frost; Root and grow indoors until spring
- Lift, divide, and store dahlia tubers

Prune:

- Cut out dead sections of shrubs or trees killed by insects or disease. Burn or throw away prunings. *Do not compost.*
- Do not prune in freezing weather

- Do not prune deciduous plants. Wait until early spring when buds begin to swell

Soil Preparation for the Spring Garden:

- Work organic matter into garden soil; leave soil in big clods; they will break during winter
- Wait until spring to add fertilizer; it will only leach out in the rains and snows over winter

Water:

- Don't water deciduous shrubs and trees until leaves fall then water thoroughly. Water conifers deeply so they'll enter winter with leaves filled with water
- Irrigate only when temperature is above freezing; don't water so much that water stands
- Drain hoses and sprinkler lines after watering
- Continue to deep-water lawns regularly

Weeds:

- Remove weeds one last time before winter sets in. Especially attack annual weeds that scatter seeds everywhere
- Remove perennial grasses and dandelions that creep in and take over flower beds and rock gardens

Annuals:

- Remove spent blooms of over-the-hill annuals for more flower production and a neater-looking garden. Later, take out plants when they finish blooming
- Plant pansies and violas for a splash of winter color

Bulbs:

- Plant daffodils, tulips, iris, crocus, hyacinth, narcissus, scillas, snow drops. Water thoroughly and mulch for winter protection
- After first frost, lift cannas, dahlias and gladiolas; let dry for 1 week to 10 days and store in moist sand

or perlite at 35° to 50°F. Lift begonia tubers and store dry at same temperature

- Cover lily beds with thick mulch or layers of newspaper to keep soil from freezing
- Begin to force bulbs indoors (see our hand out sheet "3 Easy Ways to Force Bulbs" for details)

Evergreens:

- The second best time to transplant evergreens is October/November and after the leaves of the deciduous trees fall. Plant juniper, pine, yew, and arborvitae. Water well, especially during winter dry spells

Fruit Trees:

- Light frost shouldn't hurt apples or pears, but you should pick peaches and plums before frost. Pick and discard all wormy or diseased fruit on trees or ground—throw in garbage or bury deeply

Lawns:

- Feed with Fertilome Winterizer for a healthy, cold hardy lawn. The roots will feed all winter then the lawn will come back green and healthy in the spring

Perennials:

- Lift and divide spring-blooming and late-blooming plants. Divide roots at crown or "eye"; replant and mulch well to protect from winter frost

Protect Trees and Shrubs:

- Protect the trunks of young trees and shrubs from frost. Apple, elm, hard or sugar maple, linden, poplar, and willow are susceptible to winter sunburn. Cover trunks with burlap, commercial tree wrap, or heavy cloth

Vegetables:

- Start lettuce, spinach in coldframes (grow them in

as cold a temperature as possible)

- Leave carrots, turnips, and beets in the ground until snow threatens (they'll last longer); feed twice a month with complete fertilizer
- If necessary, lift and divide asparagus, horseradish, rhubarb; mulch generously

Wildflower Seeds:

- Broadcast seeds over rock gardens, hillsides, or fields for spring bloom

Fertilize:

Fertilize with Grow Pro 10-10-10 with iron and sulfur at least 3 times a year:

- 1st: Spring when buds swell
- 2nd: Midsummer
- 3rd: Fall. This is the most important feeding for fruit bearing plants and trees



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