

## The Palouse Gardeners Calendar

### Soil and Pest management

#### January

1. Keep a garden journal and consult it throughout the year to appropriately time planting and pest management strategies.
2. To prevent winter damage from drying, water landscape plants deeply every 6 to 8 weeks, when temperatures are above freezing. See extension documents [FS196E](#), [FS239E](#)
3. Place windbreaks to protect sensitive landscape evergreens against cold, drying winds. See extension documents [FS196E](#)
4. Consider/research replacement of ornamental plants that are susceptible to disease with disease resistant varieties. See extension documents [EB2036](#)
5. Have garden soil tested to determine nutrient needs. See extension documents [MISC0304](#), [EM070E](#)
6. Reapply mulch that has blown or washed off beds. See extension documents [FS196E](#), [FS239E](#)
7. Clean and sharpen pruners and other small tools. See extension document [FS131E](#)
8. Watch for signs of field mice damage on lower trunks of trees and shrubs. Eliminate hiding places by removing weeds and protect trunks with protective stripping. See extension document [MISC0304](#)
9. Use copper fungicide on roses for general disease control or plan to replace susceptible varieties with resistant cultivars in February. See extension document [FS128E](#)
10. Monitor landscape plants for signs of pests or disease. If found or if present during the previous season, manage as directed in extension documents. [EM091](#) (azaleas), [FS246E](#) (roses), [EB1552E](#), [PNW649](#), [FS128E](#)

#### February

1. Select and store healthy scion wood for grafting fruit and nut trees. Wrap in damp cloth or peat moss and place in plastic bag. Store in cool place.
2. Repair winter damage to trees and shrubs. See extension documents [FS196E](#), [FS239E](#)
3. Scout fruit trees and small fruit plants for signs of pests or disease. If found or if present during the previous season, manage as directed in extension documents. [EM066E](#) (fruits), [EM101E](#) (apples), [FS182E](#) (pruning), [FS120E](#) (codling moth), [EB1015](#) (small fruits), [FS125E](#) (cherry fruit fly)
4. Prune and train grapes; make cuttings. See extension documents [FS182E](#), [EB0637](#)
5. Prune fruit trees before new growth starts. See extension document [MISC0304](#)
6. Prune blueberries, raspberries, gooseberries and currants. See extension documents [MISC253E](#), [EM103E](#)
7. Incorporate cover crops or other organic matter into soil. [FS117E](#), [FS119E](#)
8. Scout landscape plants for signs of pests or disease. If found or if present during the previous season, manage as directed in extension documents. [EM091](#) (azaleas), [FS246E](#) (roses), [EB1552E](#), [PNW649](#), [FS128E](#)
9. Control voles, moles and gophers with traps. [FS094E](#)

#### March

1. Spread compost over garden and landscape areas. See extension document [EB1784E](#)

2. Incorporate cover crops or other organic matter into soil. See extension documents [FS117E](#), [FS119E](#)
3. Scout fruit trees and small fruit plants for signs of pests or disease. If found or if present during the previous season, manage as directed in extension documents. [EM066E](#) (fruits), [EM101E](#) (apples), [FS182E](#) (pruning), [FS120E](#) (codling moth), [FS125E](#) (cherry fruit fly)
4. Prune and train grapes; make cuttings. [FS182E](#), [EB0637](#)
5. Prune fruit trees before new growth starts. [MISC0304](#)
6. Prune blueberries, raspberries, gooseberries and currants. [MISC253E](#), [EM103E](#)
7. If needed, fertilize rhododendrons, camellias and azaleas with acid-type fertilizer. If established and healthy, their nutrient needs should be minimal. [EB1034](#), [EM091](#)
8. Fertilize evergreen shrubs and trees only if needed. If established and healthy, their nutrient needs should be minimal. [EB1034](#)
9. Use stored scion wood to graft fruit and ornamental trees.
10. Learn to identify the predatory insects that can help keep aphids and other pests under control. [EM067E](#)
11. Prune ornamentals for air circulation and to help prevent fungal diseases. [FS182E](#), [FS246E](#), [FS131E](#)
12. Scout landscape plants for signs of pests or disease. If found or if present during the previous season, manage as directed in extension documents. [EM091](#) (azaleas), [FS246E](#) (roses), [EB1552E](#), [PNW649](#), [FS128E](#)

#### April

1. Prepare garden soil for spring planting. Incorporate generous amounts of organic materials and other amendments, using the results of a soil analysis as a guide. [MISC0304](#)
2. Prepare raised beds in areas where cold soils and poor drainage are a continuing problem. Incorporate generous amounts (at least 2 inches) of organic materials. [FS075E](#)
3. Apply commercial fertilizers, manure or compost to cane, bush (gooseberries, currants, blueberries) and trailing berries. [EM070E](#), [MISC253E](#), [EB1784E](#), [EM103E](#)
4. Place compost or well-decomposed manure around perennial vegetables, such as asparagus and rhubarb. [EB1784E](#)
5. Cut back ornamental grasses to a few inches above ground, in early spring.
6. Scout fruit trees and small fruit plants for signs of pests or disease. If found or if present during the previous season, manage as directed in extension documents. [EM066E](#) (fruits), [EM101E](#) (apples), [FS182E](#) (pruning), [FS120E](#) (codling moth), [EB1015](#) (small fruits), [FS125E](#) (cherry fruit fly)
7. Scout landscape plants for signs of pests or disease. If found or if present during the previous season, manage as directed in extension documents. [EM091](#) (azaleas), [FS246E](#) (roses), [EB1552E](#), [PNW649](#), [FS128E](#)
8. Scout lawn for signs of pests or disease. If found, manage as directed in extension documents. [EB0482E](#)
9. Prune deciduous trees and shrubs. See extension documents [FS131E](#), [FS182E](#)
10. Clean up hiding places for slugs, sowbugs and millipedes. [PNW649](#), [EM009E](#)
11. Cut and remove weeds near the garden to remove potential sources of plant disease.

#### May

1. Prepare and prime irrigation system for summer. See extension document [FS030E](#)
2. May 1: optimum time to fertilize lawns. Yearly total of 4 lbs nitrogen per 1000 square feet divided into 4 equal applications. See extension document [EB0482E](#)
3. Scout fruit trees and small fruit plants for signs of pests or disease. If found or if present during the previous season, manage as directed in extension documents. [EM066E](#) (fruits), [EM101E](#) (apples), [FS182E](#) (pruning), [FS120E](#) (codling moth), [EB1015](#) (small fruits), [FS125E](#) (cherry fruit fly)
4. Fertilize roses and control rose disease such as mildew with a registered fungicide. [FS246E](#), [FS164E](#), [FS128E](#)
5. Manage weeds while they are small and actively growing with light cultivation or herbicides. Once the weed has buds, herbicides are less effective.
6. Trap voles, moles and gophers as new mounds or tunnels appear. [FS094E](#)
7. Scout landscape plants for signs of pests or disease. If found or if present during the previous season, manage as directed in extension documents. [EM091](#) (azaleas), [FS246E](#) (roses), [EB1552E](#), [PNW649](#), [FS128E](#)
8. Scout emerging vegetable plants for signs of pests or disease. If found, manage as directed in extension documents. [EM009E](#), [PNW649](#), [FS089E](#).
9. Control slugs with barrier, bait or trap and by removing or mowing vegetation around garden area. [PNW649](#), [EM009E](#)
10. Watch nightly low predictions for potential frosts. Have frost row cover on hand to place over plants as needed. [FS089E](#)

## June

1. Fertilize vegetable garden 1 month after plants emerge by side dressing alongside rows.
2. Use organic mulches to conserve soil moisture in ornamental beds. An inch or two of sawdust, bark dust or composted leaves will minimize loss of water through evaporation. [EM087E](#), [EB1784E](#)
3. Make sure raised beds receive enough water for plants to avoid drought stress. [FS075E](#)
4. June 15: If green lawns are being maintained through the summer, apply 1 pound of nitrogen per 1000 square feet to lawns. [EB0482E](#)
5. Watch nightly low predictions for potential frosts. Have frost row cover on hand to place over plants as needed. [FS089E](#)
6. If green lawn is desired, water when the top 2" of the lawn are dry using 1 to 1.5 inch of water per week from June through August. Measure water use by placing an empty tuna can where your irrigation waters lands. [EB1090](#), [EB0482E](#)
7. Scout fruit trees and small fruit plants for signs of pests or disease. If found or if present during the previous season, manage as directed in extension documents. [EM066E](#) (fruits), [EM101E](#) (apples), [FS182E](#) (pruning), [FS120E](#) (codling moth), [EB1015](#) (small fruits), [FS125E](#) (cherry fruit fly)
8. Scout landscape plants for signs of pests or disease. If found or if present during the previous season, manage as directed in extension documents. [EM091](#) (azaleas), [FS246E](#) (roses), [EB1552E](#), [PNW649](#), [FS128E](#)
9. Scout emerging vegetable plants for signs of pests or disease. If found, manage as directed in extension documents. [EM009E](#), [PNW649](#), [FS089E](#).
10. Use floating row covers to keep insects such as beet leaf miners, cabbage maggot adult flies, and carrot rust flies away from susceptible crops. See extension documents [EM009E](#), [FS089E](#)

11. Learn to identify beneficial insects and plant a row of insectary plants (Alyssum, Phacelia, coriander, candytuft, sunflower, yarrow, dill) to attract them to your garden. Check with local nurseries for best selections. [EM067E](#) and [FS174E](#).
12. Control garden weeds by pulling, hoeing, or mulching.

#### July

1. Weed and fertilize asparagus and rhubarb plants. Compost works well as fertilizer. Water well to develop crowns for next year. [EB1784E](#)
2. Scout emerging vegetable plants for signs of pests or disease. If found, manage as directed in extension documents. [EM009E](#), [PNW649](#), [FS089E](#). See also individual vegetable monographs, ie [FS145E](#) (tomatoes)
3. Scout fruit trees and small fruit plants for signs of pests or disease. If found or if present during the previous season, manage as directed in extension documents. [EM066E](#) (fruits), [EM101E](#) (apples), [FS182E](#) (pruning), [FS120E](#) (codling moth), [EB1015](#) (small fruits), [FS125E](#) (cherry fruit fly)
4. Scout landscape plants for signs of pests or disease. If found or if present during the previous season, manage as directed in extension documents. [EM091](#) (azaleas), [FS246E](#) (roses), [EB1552E](#), [PNW649](#), [FS128E](#)
5. Cover blueberry bushes with netting to keep birds from eating them. [EM103E](#)

#### August

1. Make compost of lawn clippings and garden plants that are ready to be recycled. Don't use lawn clippings if lawn has been treated with herbicide (including Weed and Feed products). Don't compost diseased plants unless you are using 'hot compost' (120° to 150°F). [EB1784E](#)
2. Prune away excess vegetation and new blossoms on tomatoes after mid-August to concentrate plant on ripening fruit. [FS145E](#)
3. Scout fruit trees and small fruit plants for signs of pests or disease. If found or if present during the previous season, manage as directed in extension documents. [EM066E](#) (fruits), [EM101E](#) (apples), [FS182E](#) (pruning), [FS120E](#) (codling moth), [EB1015](#) (small fruits), [FS125E](#) (cherry fruit fly)
4. Scout landscape plants for signs of pests or disease. If found or if present during the previous season, manage as directed in extension documents. [EM091](#) (azaleas), [FS246E](#) (roses), [EB1552E](#), [PNW649](#), [FS128E](#)
5. Scout vegetable plants for signs of pests or disease. If found, manage as directed in extension documents. [EM009E](#), [PNW649](#), [FS089E](#). See also individual vegetable monographs, ie [FS096E](#) (cucumbers)
6. End of August, stop watering grapes and berries to harden them for winter. [MISC253E](#).

#### September

1. Beginning of September, stop watering grapes and berries to harden them for winter. [MISC253E](#).
2. Recycle disease-free garden plants and kitchen vegetable or fruit scraps by composting. Don't compost diseased plants unless you are using 'hot compost' (120° to 150°F). [EB1784E](#)
3. Scout fruit trees and small fruit plants for signs of pests or disease. If found or if present during the previous season, manage as directed in extension documents. [EM066E](#) (fruits), [EM101E](#) (apples), [FS182E](#) (pruning), [FS120E](#) (codling moth), [EB1015](#) (small fruits), [FS125E](#) (cherry fruit fly)

4. Scout landscape plants for signs of pests or disease. If found or if present during the previous season, manage as directed in extension documents. [EM091](#) (azaleas), [FS246E](#) (roses), [EB1552E](#), [PNW649](#), [FS128E](#)
5. Scout vegetable plants for signs of pests or disease. If found, manage as directed in extension documents. [EM009E](#), [PNW649](#), [FS089E](#). See also individual vegetable monographs, ie [FS087E](#) (squash)
6. Sept 1: Apply fertilizer to lawn. [EB0482E](#)
7. Watch nightly low predictions for potential frosts. Have frost row cover on hand to place over plants as needed. [FS089E](#)

## October

1. Use newspaper or cardboard covered by mulch to discourage winter and spring annual weeds.
2. To suppress future pest problems, clean up annual flower beds by removing diseased plant materials, overwintering areas for insect pests; mulch with manure or garden compost to feed the soil and suppress weeds. [FS123E](#), [EB1784E](#)
3. Prune dead blackberry floricanes to ground level in October or November. [EM103E](#)
4. Remove and dispose of windfall apples that might be harboring apple maggot or codling moth larvae. [EM066E](#)
5. Remove mummified fruit on cherry, plum, plum, prune and apricot trees and destroy to prevent brown rot. [EM066E](#)
6. Rake and destroy diseased leaves (apple, cherry, rose, etc) or hot compost diseased leaves. [EB1784E](#)
7. Scout fruit trees and small fruit plants for signs of pests or disease. If found or if present during the previous season, manage as directed in extension documents. [EM066E](#) (fruits), [EM101E](#) (apples), [FS182E](#) (pruning), [FS120E](#) (codling moth), [EB1015](#) (small fruits), [FS125E](#) (cherry fruit fly), [FS128E](#) (fungicides)
8. If voles, moles and gophers are a problem, consider traps. [FS094E](#)
9. Check/treat houseplants for disease and insects before bringing indoors.

## November

1. Rake and compost leaves that are free of diseases and insects. Use mulches to prevent erosion and compaction from rain. [EB1784E](#)
2. Between Nov 1 to 15: Apply fertilizer to lawn. [EB0482E](#)
3. Water your newly planted perennials, trees and shrubs every 6 to 8 weeks with a deep soaking to prevent drying out, if there is no snow cover and the ground is warm enough to accept water. [EB1090](#)
4. Wrap the trunks of young, thin-barked trees (maples, aspen, ash) with paper tree wrap late in the month to prevent sunscald. Remove in April. Wrap new trees 2-3 years in a row until the outer bark has thickened. [FS197E](#)
5. Rake and destroy leaves from fruit trees that were diseased this year. Remove and discard mummified fruit. [EM066E](#)
6. Remove and dispose of windfall apples that might be harboring apple maggot or codling moth larvae. [EM066E](#)
7. Check firewood for insect infestations. Burn affected wood first and don't store inside.

## December

1. Rake leaves, cut and remove withered stalks of perennial flowers, mulch flowerbeds and hoe or pull winter weeds.
2. Turn compost pile and protect from heavy rains, if necessary. [EB1784E](#)
3. Check stored flower bulbs, fresh vegetables and fruits for rot and fungus problems. Discard any showing signs of rot.
4. Water your newly planted perennials, trees and shrubs every 6 to 8 weeks with a deep soaking to prevent drying out, if there is no snow cover and the ground is warm enough to accept water. [EB1090](#)
5. Check for rodent damage around bases of trees and large shrubs. Remove weeds to prevent rodents from using them as hiding places. Use traps and approved baits as necessary. [FS094E](#)
6. Avoid mounding mulching materials around the bases of trees and shrubs. The mulch might provide cover for rodents. [FS094E](#)
7. Monitor spruce trees for spruce aphids. Treat if present in large numbers. [PNW649](#)

## References

1. <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/techniques/monthly-garden-calendars>
2. Gardening in the Inland Northwest. WSU Extension [MISC0304](#)
3. PNW Insect Management Handbook <https://pnwhandbooks.org/insect>
4. PNW Weed Management Handbook <https://pnwhandbooks.org/weed>
5. PNW Plant Disease Management Handbook <https://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease>