



WINTERIZING YOUR YARD

A few chores completed in the fall will eliminate a lot of work and problems the following spring. Following is a list of important jobs to be done.

TREES AND SHRUBS

Water

Both deciduous and evergreen plants need deep watering in the fall, but watering evergreen trees and shrubs tops the list of fall chores. Needles and leaves continue to transpire and lose moisture, especially on windy and sunny days. If water is not available to the roots, they will suffer winter burn and the damage will not be seen until the following spring and summer. Give plants several good soakings before the ground freezes. Don't forget to water plants under the eaves of buildings.

Research shows that anti-transpirants do not reduce cold damage to plants. Give plants adequate water is cheaper and is as effective as, or more effective than these products.

Trunk protection

Trunks of young trees are susceptible to winter injury, especially new trees or those with thin bark, such as birch, apples or cherries. On sunny winter days, the bark on the southwest side of trees warms but refreezes as the sun goes down, causing the bark to split. This wound opens the tree to disease and decay. Trees can be loosely wrapped with a non-paper trunk wrap, but these should have ventilation holes to allow water to evaporate and wraps should be removed in the spring.

Fruit trees

Good sanitation is important. Remove all fallen fruit, leaves and dead branches. When left on the ground they provide a breeding place for diseases and a refuge for pests. Check with your local extension about dormant season sprays to combat canker diseases on peach, apricot, and cherry trees. Remove mulch and weeds from around the base of fruit trees and woody shrubs to prevent mice from hiding and eating the bark.

Pyramid shrubs

To prevent breakage from the weight of ice or snow, wrap a rope in a downward spiral from the top of the shrub. To support very narrow plants, pound a stake 8" from the main trunk and fasten shrub to it.

Transplanting

Trees and shrubs can be transplanted in the fall. Be sure to apply plenty of water until the ground freezes. Do not fertilize or prune branches until spring.

Visit our website at <https://extension.wsu.edu/spokane/master-gardener-program/home-lawn-and-garden/>
e-mail your garden questions to: mastergardener@spokanecounty.org

LAWNS - PERENNIALS - BERRIES - ROSES

Lawns

Keep mowing lawns as needed. Make the last mowing slightly higher than usual. Rake leaves from lawn area. Fertilize lawns for the last time in late October or early November. Use a slow-release rather than quick-release fertilizer after the final mowing, but before the soil freezes.

Perennials & Herbs

In general, remove all dead and diseased leaves and flower stalks. For specific plant needs consult gardening books or fact sheet C093 Preparing Perennials for Winter. Tender perennials/herbs that cannot tolerate -20 degrees F can be overwintered indoors or heavily mulched. Fall planted perennials should also be mulched. Apply mulch after the ground freezes using pine needles, straw or shredded and disease-free leaves. Cover loosely with lightweight branches to keep mulch in place.

Berries

Raspberries: Cut old (brown) canes to the ground and leave new (green) canes to fruit next year. Once leaves drop from new canes, cut any excessively tall ones down to four feet high.

Strawberries: Remove old leaves and any foliage lying on the ground. Reduce watering as growth slows. Cover the plants with 6" of mulch when temperatures fall below the low 20's.

Roses

Deep watering is a must. Prune excessively tall canes to prevent winter winds from breaking them, but perform most pruning in the spring to prevent cold damage. Remove all diseased leaves and destroy. Cover the bud union with at least a foot of soil. Do not take the soil from around the rose, but get it from another area of the garden. Cover with two feet of loose mulch, such as pine needles, large leaves, etc. For more information see fact sheet C125 Winterizing Roses or read a Calendar of Rose Care.

MISCELLANEOUS CHORES FOR NOVEMBER

General clean up

Good garden sanitation is essential to avoid providing a breeding place for diseases and garden pests. Remove dead plants from vegetable and annual gardens. Rake up and dispose of all fallen fruit. Disease-free leaves can be used as mulch. In borders, leaves from healthy plants can remain where they fall. Pine needles make excellent winter mulch for tender plants. Weeding now eliminates places for over wintering garden pests and cuts down on weeds next spring.

- Clean & oil mowers and other tools. Check owner's manuals about removal of gas from power equipment. (Please dispose of old gas properly. Call 625-6800 for this information.)
- Treat wooden-handled tools with linseed oil to prevent cracking.
 - Drain hoses, coil, tie and store out of freezing temperatures.
 - Store insecticides out of freezing temperatures.
 - Clean and store cement birdbaths and clay pots inside.
 - Turn off water to outside, drain faucets and sprinkler systems.