



## Master Gardener Program

- Control cane and leaf spot on cane berries with a registered fixed copper spray.
- Harvest potatoes after tops die down. Harvest Bartlett pears when they are green ripe.
- Protect tomatoes if frost threatens, or harvest remaining tomatoes and ripen indoors.
- After final harvest of fall-bearing raspberries, prune off top half of canes.

### OCTOBER

- Water houseplants less frequently, and stop fertilizing.
- Dig dahlias shortly after frost blackens their foliage. Dig gladiolus corms and cut leaves back an inch from the corm. Label, dry, and store.
- Plant trees and shrubs before fall rains arrive.
- Harvest sunflower heads, winter squash, pumpkins, and apples.
- Divide rhubarb.
- Use tree wrap to protect the trunks of young fruit trees from sunscald and rodents through winter months.

### NOVEMBER

- Clean up flower beds. Pull out annuals; cut back herbaceous perennials to a few inches above the ground.
- Prune roses to 2 1/2 feet. Remove leaves and mound 8 inches of mulch around canes.
- Plant or move trees and shrubs now through early spring.
- Collect and dispose of leaf and fallen fruit debris from under fruit trees. Many insects and disease organisms overwinter in such debris.
- Cut back the oldest and least vigorous stems on blueberries to a young shoot or to ground level. Thin twiggy branch tips and remove any broken, dead or diseased branches.
- Tie summer-bearing raspberry canes to wires and prune 6 inches above the top trellis wire. Cut off the tip sections of ever bearing raspberry canes that fruited this fall. For a fall-only crop, cut all canes to the ground.
- Move container plants to a sheltered location.
- Withhold fertilizer from houseplants from now until mid-March unless they are actively growing.

### DECEMBER

- Remove foil or wrap from poinsettia pots. Keep plants in indirect sun light at 60-70° F, and away from heat sources. When soil is dry, water poinsettias at the sink and let them drain thoroughly. Don't fertilize or mist (which could encourage the growth of fungus). Let faded bracts and leaves fall naturally, then dispose of them.
- Spray peaches and nectarines with lime sulfur to control peach tree curl.
- Water plants under eaves and in protected entries. Well-watered plants take freezing temperatures better than dry ones.
- Apply aged compost to groomed beds and use it to mulch tender plants.
- Turn compost, continue to add materials to it, and keep it covered during rainy periods.

## Do you Have Gardening Questions?

Call: Master Gardener Heritage Farm Answer Clinic — (360) 397-6060 ext 5711  
Email: [MGanswerclinic@clark.wa.gov](mailto:MGanswerclinic@clark.wa.gov)

Visit the clinic:  
1919 NE 78th Street, Vancouver, WA 98665

Hour of operation:  
Tuesday & Wednesday 8:30 AM – 2:00 PM  
Thursday 11:30 AM until 5:00 PM

Phone & email messages are monitored Monday through Friday.

WSU Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local WSU Extension office. If you require special accommodation, call WSU Extension Clark County at 360-397-6060 ext 0 at least two weeks prior to the event.



## Gardening Tasks & Tips

What to do in your garden  
— and when —  
all throughout the year.

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## JANUARY

- Check stored bulbs and dahlia tubers. Discard the soft or rotted ones. Sprinkling with water will *plump up* shriveled tubers.
- Water overwintering geraniums and fuchsias just enough to keep them alive.
- Spray cherry trees for bacterial canker. Apply dormant spray to apples and pears.
- Apply a dormant spray of lime sulfur on roses.

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## FEBRUARY

- When soil becomes workable, prepare vegetable gardens for planting.
- Plant peas in well-drained soil.
- Prune fruit trees when the temperature is above freezing.
- On mild days, plant bare-root roses, berries, grapes, kiwis, and fruit trees.
- Pull mulch partly away from emerging bulbs and perennials. In mid-month, hunt hidden slugs.
- Start broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower indoors.

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## MARCH

- Prune and fertilize summer blooming clematis.
- Divide perennials that will bloom after mid-June.
- Trim heather and heaths after blooming, just back to below the point where blooms form.
- Fertilize established roses when they begin to leaf out.
- Bring over-wintering fuchsias and geraniums out of dormancy. If needed, put fuchsias in larger pots with fresh soil. Check for circling or damaged roots.
- Apply dormant spray on cane berries before or just after buds swell.
- Spray peaches and nectarines with lime sulfur to control peach leaf curl.
- Control slugs around newly planted seedlings.
- Fertilize blueberries, blackberries and raspberries with 5-10-10 fertilizer.

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## APRIL

- Remove and destroy tent caterpillar larvae and nests.
- Knock aphids off roses with a stream of water.
- Set out transplants of hardy annuals such as primroses, dusty miller and pansies. Direct sow snapdragons, sweet alyssum, cornflower, clarkia, calendula, larkspur, and Shirley poppy.
- Plant dahlias, ranunculus, gladiolus, iris and cannas.
- Dispose of fallen camellia blossoms to control the spread of botrytis or petal blight.
- Control brown rot on nectarines, apricots, peaches and cherries.
- Control spittlebugs, aphids and slugs on strawberries.
- Protect dogwood trees from anthracnose.
- Use floating row covers to protect plants in the cabbage family from egg laying by cabbage root maggot flies.

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## MAY

- Remove suckers from roses, lilacs, grafted ornamentals and fruit trees. Cut suckers off flush with roots.
- Fertilize rhododendrons and azaleas. Remove faded blooms. Prune plants to control size.
- Prune Euonymus and forsythia.

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## JUNE

- Fertilize lawns with a fertilizer containing a 3-1-2 or 6-1-4 ratio of N-K-P, applying 1 pound of nitrogen per 1000 square feet.
- Divide spring blooming perennials after their flowers fade.
- Sow fast growing annuals such as calendula, cleome, nasturtium, sunflower and zinnia.
- Continue watering bulbs until the leaves start turning brown. You may remove leaves that pull away easily when you give a gentle tug.
- If your apple trees are not scab resistance cultivars, continue to apply a registered fungicide until dry weather. After apple trees do their annual *June drop*, thin fruit so they are spaced 6 to 8 inches apart.
- Spray cherry trees for brown rot.
- Protect berries with bird netting.

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## JULY

- Feed roses and other shallow rooted shrubs.
- Prune or trim flowering shrubs.
- Control codling moth on apples.
- Apply a band of sticky material—such as Tanglefoot—to the trunks of rhododendrons to keep weevils down.
- Control Red Thread in lawns by maintaining an adequate fertilizer program and mowing regularly.
- Fertilize asparagus and let it shoot up into foliage plumes.
- Mulch rhubarb with compost.
- Prevent or control late blight of tomato and potato.
- Withhold water on onions and garlic as tops begin to dry.
- Prune summer-bearing cane berries after harvest. On fall-bearing types, cut out summer fruiting canes after harvest.

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## AUGUST

- Divide primroses, poppies, candytuft and daylilies.
- Do not apply fertilizer to trees and shrubs. Decrease water on broad leaf evergreen shrubs.
- Feed chrysanthemums lightly at two week intervals.
- Deep water dahlias at ground level to sustain growth and reduce danger of mildew.
- Spray for apple maggot, if needed. Continue control of codling moth on apples.
- Prune fall webworm nests from ornamentals and destroy.
- Fertilize June-bearing strawberries.

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## SEPTEMBER

- Feed lawns early this month with one pound of actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of turf using a 3-1-2 or 6-1-4 fertilizer. Remove thatch and aerate. Patch bare spots.
- Dig and divide daffodils.
- Plant cover crops, ground covers, shrubs and trees. Keep plants well watered until fall rains come.
- Control coryneum blight and bacterial canker on peach and cherry trees with a registered copper spray.