



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.

Anti-transpirant - Broadleaf evergreens such as rhododendron, hollies and Oregon grape benefit from sprays such as Wilt-Pruf or Forever-green. These waxy products coat the leaves and protect them from moisture loss. Apply on a mild, sunny day in November or early December when it is above 40°F.

Trunk protection - Trunks of young trees are susceptible to winter injury, especially those with thin or dark bark. On sunny winter days, the bark on the southwest side of trees warms and expands, causing the bark to split. This can lead to disease and decay later on. Painting the trunks with indoor white latex paint diluted with an equal amount of water or wrapping the trunks can prevent this. Commercial tree wrap products are available at garden centers. Remove the wrap in 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. Spray peach, apricot and cherry trees with Microcop or other copper sprays for Coryneum Blight and to combat canker diseases during the dormant season. Peaches: Spray for Peach Leaf Curl in February.

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.

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LAWNS – PERENNIALS – BERRIES – ROSES and MORE

Lawns - Fertilize lawns for the last time in late October or early November. Use a fertilizer with the first number (%) lower than the second and third numbers. Rake leaves from lawn area. Keep mowing lawns as needed. Make the last mowing slightly higher than usual.

Perennials & herbs - Care varies widely with type of plant. In general, remove all dead and diseased leaves and flower stalks. Tender perennials/herbs are plants that cannot tolerate -20 degrees F. For these and fall planted ones, mulching is recommended. Apply mulch after the ground freezes to keep the ground frozen. Use pine needles, straw or leaves. Cover loosely with lightweight branches to keep mulch in place. For specific plant needs consult gardening books or call WSU Master Gardeners at 477-2181.

Berries - *Raspberries*: Cut summer-bearing brown canes to the ground and leave new green canes to fruit next year. Once leaves drop, cut these long canes 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 back canes to about two feet high. 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.

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 and leaves. 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.

MISCELLANEOUS CHORES FOR NOVEMBER

- 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.
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