

Fall To Do

Early Fall Gardening Checklist

- **Cleanup** - Clean leaves and debris from plant beds. This will be much easier to do in fall as the leaves will be dry and not matted down from winter snow. Mulch leaves with a lawn mower and add to / start a compost pile.
- **Prune** - From late fall to early spring, prune out old wood or damaged limbs on your shrubs and trees. Do not prune spring blooming forsythia, lilacs, azaleas, rhododendrons, etc.
- **Spray Animal Deterrents** - As recommended by the manufacturer.
- **Tree Trunk Protection** - Snap on plastic tree guards for all trees up to about 3" in diameter. For smooth barked trees larger than 3" (up to about 6") use paper tree wrap start at the base of the tree, overlap about 1" as you wrap up to the first set of branches. Tree wrap helps protect trees from animal damage as well as damage from sun scald and frost crack.
- **Bark Mulch** - if you didn't do so in spring, now is a good time to apply 2-3" of good quality shredded bark mulch to help retain soil moisture, moderate soil temperatures and help to keep weed growth in check.
- **Fertilizing** - Apply *Tree and Shrub Food* to all trees, shrubs and perennial beds after the first hard frost. Follow label directions. Or use *Sustane* fertilizer (an organic alternative).
- **Insect problems** - Apply *Horticultural Oil* to fruit trees to kill overwintering insect eggs and adults. Apply between November and March.
- **Bone Meal** - Apply to all your blooming plants including bulb and perennial beds. Can substitute bulb food.



Tips:

Move in houseplants before the temperature dips below 50°.

Lift tubers like Dahlias, Gladiolus & Cannas.

Plant spring bulbs now.

Fall Plants:

- **Perennials:** Asters, Mums, Turtle Head, Hibiscus, Sedum
- **Grasses:** Silver Grass, Flame Grass, Little & Big Blue Stem Grass
- **Shrubs:** Hydrangea, Burning Bush, Winterberry, Chokeberry, Rhododendron
- **Trees:** Maples, Serviceberry, Crabapples, Northern Red Oak

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Garden Maintenance

They say all good things must come to an end. And so it is with gardens here in northern Wisconsin. Frosts bring an end to our annual baskets and containers, the tops of perennials die back and the leaves begin turning color and dropping from the trees. Now it's time to get the landscape ready for the winter season so everything can come back even better next spring.

Fall Planting - Fall is a great time to plant perennials, trees and shrubs. Just make sure to mulch 2-3 inches and water your plants deeply several times. A few plants like new brightly colored Coneflowers do not like to be planted in the late summer fall. Plant them no later than early August or wait till spring.



Lawn Maintenance Checklist

- **Weeds** - Fall is the best time to treat your lawn for broadleaf weed control. Apply *Weed Free Zone* between mid-August to mid-September.
- **Fertilizer** - Apply *Winterizer Lawn Food* between the middle and end of October after the first killing frost. Follow label directions.
- **Mowing** - Continue mowing your lawn at 2-1/2". Lower the mowing height to 2" for the last mowing. This will help reduce the chance of fungal diseases over winter.



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