



Preparing Your Garden for Winter

With a little work in the fall, your garden will wake up healthier and stronger next spring. Follow the tips below for a successful spring.

Perennials & Flower Beds

Cut back selectively:

- Trim spent perennials, but leave plants with seed heads (coneflowers, rudbeckia, grasses) for birds and winter interest.
- Any diseased plants should be cut back and the foliage disposed of; do not compost.

Mulch for protection:

- Add 2-3 inches of mulch to protect tender roots from freeze-thaw cycles. (i.e. roses)

Divide now:

- Fall is the best time to divide irises, peonies, and other spring-blooming perennials.

Trees & Shrubs

Deep water before freeze-up:

- Give evergreens and newly planted trees a good soak before the ground hardens.

Wrap Cedars:

- Wrap evergreens near roads/driveways with burlap to reduce salt damage, wind burn and prevent snow load damage.

Guard young trees:

- Install white tree guards to prevent rodent damage and sun scald from the strong winter sun.

Vegetable Gardens

Remove diseased plants:

- Tomato blight and powdery mildew can overwinter in soil. Do not compost infected material.

Enrich soil:

- Add compost or well-rotted manure before snow cover — nutrients will break down over winter.

General Garden Tasks

Tender bulbs: Dig and store dahlias, cannas, and gladiolus indoors before hard frost.

Containers: Move ceramic or clay pots inside — freezing and thawing can cause cracking.

Tools: Clean and oil garden tools; drain hoses to prevent freezing and splitting.

Wildlife: Consider leaving some natural debris (brush piles, seed heads) for pollinators and birds through the winter.