

November Lawn & Garden To-Do List

Shrubs and Trees

- Prune deciduous trees and shrubs once they are completely dormant.
- Decorate indoors with berry-covered branches.
- Continue planting container-grown ornamental trees and shrubs until the ground freezes.
- Water evergreens until freezing weather, but make sure they don't get waterlogged.
- Start shopping for your live Christmas tree, and dig the planting hole while the ground is soft.
- In zones 8 and warmer, you can plant bare-root trees and shrubs.
- Save cuttings for rooting indoors.
- Winterize roses after the first frost.

Perennials and Bulbs

- In colder climates, dig up chrysanthemums once they finish blooming.
- Divide and transplant fall-blooming bulbs after the leaves turn yellow.
- Plant winter and spring-flowering bulbs.
- Check on your stored tender bulbs to make sure they're in a cool, dry place.
- Continue to plant perennials if the ground isn't frozen yet.
- In frost-free areas, you can keep planting bulbs that don't require a winter's chill—such as anemone, amaryllis, calla lilies, freesia, lilies, and garlic.

Annuals and Containers

- Empty and clean out spent annual containers.
- Store clay pots indoors, emptied of soil.
- Smash up cracked or broken pots to use as drainage in next year's containers.
- Plant colorful winter annuals such as pansies and ornamental cabbages.

Lawns

- Mow lawns until they stop growing.
- Rake lawns and remove debris.
- Apply winterizing fertilizer to your lawn after grass stops growing but at least a month before the ground freezes.

Fruits and Vegetables

- Cultivate the soil in your vegetable beds to be ready for early spring planting.
- Cut back asparagus tops after they turn yellow.
- Enjoy the final harvest!

Houseplants

- Cut back on feeding and watering houseplants, but make sure they get enough humidity.
- Address pests and diseases as you find them.
- If you have chilled bulbs for the holidays, start forcing them by placing in a relatively cool spot (60° F) with indirect sunlight. Increase temperature and light as green growth and buds appear. Plan for buds within 3-4 weeks.

Cleanup and Maintenance

- Keep leaves cleaned up. Compost them, or use as mulch around plants or in between planting rows. Up to 1" can be mown into your lawn.
- Remove diseased foliage from plants or beds.
- "Tuck in" your beds with mulch, adding extra to plants that may be cold-tender in your area.
- Also, add organic material under (or in place of) the mulch.
- Discourage squirrels and rabbits by lightly piling evergreen boughs over green plants and veggies.
- Clean, sharpen, and oil garden tools.
- Drain and store garden hoses and protect outdoor faucets from freezing weather.
- Winterize your garden and lawn machinery according to manufacturer's instructions.
- Fill up bird feeders for overwintering birds.
- Make a safe place to store some hardwood fireplace ashes for use in next year's garden.
- Continue feeding pond fish until the water temperature drops below 50° F.
- Stop all watering when the ground freezes.
- Prolong your enjoyment of veggies and flowers by protecting them on frosty nights.
- Keep adding to your compost pile, even though it will slow down in cold weather.