

FALL - CLEAN-UP

Late September – As temperatures start to cool, many of your summer Perennials will put on a last show of color that includes seed production. In many cases, such as Coneflower and Rudbeckia, self-seeding is great to build up a nice stand of flowers for next year. For other plants such as non-woody Coreopsis, Hosta and Daylillies, now is the time to start thinking about digging and splitting.

Planning ahead of what to keep & what to move, now, gives you a head start ahead of the colder weather yet to come. Don't forget to take pictures of areas that you like and those that you want to change. These pictures will come in handy in January when the new catalogs of plants start arriving!

Decide on 'Naturalized Areas' that will promote a natural habitat for overwintering pollinators, Natural predator insects, food for birds, and also Winter Interest!

October – Taking time to prepare your yard for winter and next spring will pay off big returns in a healthier lawn & better blooms!

- Cut an additional $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch on your grass height each time, until your grass is 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches high. This promotes root growth and less fungus.
- Fertilizer your lawn with a Winterizer or our Step 4 (28-0-4).
- Aerate your lawn if compacted.
- Remove & store any Garden or Lawn ornaments – Discard broken ones.
- Rake up leaves, compost or dispose of. Do not burn as fungus spores may be released and could settle on your lawn or garden. Pay special attention to areas under and around fruit trees or vines.
- Pull & Remove weeds & discard. Do Not Compost.
- Bring any Herb plants inside or cut back. Dry or freeze the leaves.
- Dig up any Annuals, Vegetables or Herbs that remain. Discard in Compost bin. Don't forget the roots.
- Tie up any Vines. These will be pruned back in February. Use a bright ribbon to mark where your vines are located, and a Bright color of nail polish to mark where on the vines you want to prune. Prune your Ever-bearing Raspberries now.

- Plant a couple of Spring Blooming Bulbs at the base of trees. They will bring Spring Interest to your yard as well as provide early blooms for pollinators.
- Trim back any wayward perennials to 6-8 inches above the ground. This will protect the crown of the plant against freezing. Compost the trimmings. Dig and Divide if needed (usually every 3 years).
- Once everything is trimmed and raked, use a layer of straw to help keep strawberry & rose crowns safe from winter freeze and heave.
- Prune Maple, Birch, Oak and Mountain Ash.
- Add manure, compost or mulch to soil and around any exposed plant crowns.
- Continue to water Trees, Shrubs & Evergreens weekly until the ground freezes.
- Renew Mulch around Trees or Shrubs to help them retain moisture & reduce winter injury.
- Wrap trunks of newly planted trees to help them avoid splitting bark from winter freeze and thaw.
- After the first frost – dig up any Summer flowering bulbs, such as Dahlias or Caladiums. Let dry and then wrap loosely in newspaper and store in cool, dry location.
- Clean & Oil all garden tools before storing for Winter.
- Remove all sprinklers, Drain & Store Hoses for Winter.

February – Time to Prune Vines, and Fruit Trees.

Leave till April –

- Native Bees hibernate in peeling bark, hollow stems or native grasses
- Butterflies can nestle in cracks of rocks or under bark in leaf litter.
- Lady Bugs hibernate in colonies at the base of plant or under rocks.