

November Gardening

Each year is different, let the weather be your guide. Use this gardening guide as a simple reminder as to what needs to be done in your garden this month.

Ave High **50° F**
Ave Low **29° F**
Ave Moisture **1.22"**

√ November sees the last days of Autumn. Most of the leaves are down, most of the perennials and roses have finished blooming. The chilly days and nights are here, and often rainy or snowy days abound. Flurries to full-fledged snowstorms often arrive in November.



Nature is slowly putting things to rest for a long winter nap.

√ It's cold, it's wet and it's nasty out, and the last thing on your mind is playing in the mud in your garden..... It's really hard to get motivated to do much of anything outdoors, but there are a quite a few tasks and chores which you should do on those days when the weather is warm and favorable!

√ The wise homeowner takes advantage of the few balmy days that November offers to set up the outdoor Christmas display for the coming season, thus avoiding the unpleasant task of putting up lights and holiday displays during the blustery and damp days of December.

√ The enterprising gardener takes advantage of those same balmy days to finish this season's tasks of winterizing the garden and taking care of other gardening chores:

Roses

√ Don't cut roses back severely now – do that kind of pruning next spring. Prune roses, after they completely stop growing, just enough to prevent snow damage during the winter.

√ After a hard frost, hill up tender roses with leaves, mulch, or soil for winter protection, if necessary. Wait until the ground freezes to add the mulch or leaves. Using rose collars helps prevent the leaves from blowing away.

√ Mound five to six inches of soil around the bases of your hydrangeas and roses. Use soil from another part of the garden, rather than risking damage to the roots by digging around the base of the plant.

√ Make sure that the canes of your climbing roses and other vining plants are securely fastened to their supports. Winter winds can whip and severely damage unprotected plants. Don't tie them so tightly that the string or twist-tie cuts into the stem.

Flowers

√ Cut Chrysanthemum stems to 2-3 inches from the soil once they have begun to die back. You can continue to

transplant your perennials throughout the fall and winter, as long as they remain dormant.

√ Tulip bulbs may still be planted in the early part of November - the sooner the better now. Plant some in pots for forcing to bloom during the winter. Put the pots in a shed or next to the house to provide cold temperatures but still give them some protection.

√ Tender bulbs should be dug up and stored in a cool, dark area.

√ Use small stakes or markers where you've planted bulbs or late starting spring plants in the perennial garden, to avoid disturbing them when you begin spring soil preparation. If you feel that stakes don't fit your landscape style... you might consider marking stones with fingernail polish or paint, and set them on the planting spot (painted side down)

√ Remove frost-killed annuals. Roto-till annual flower beds and add organic matter to improve soil. Use Bumper Crop, Manure, Homemade Compost or as many leaves from the neighborhood as possible.

√ Depending on your gardening style, leave or cut back perennial stalks to 4 to 6 inches.

√ Apply mulch around tender plants. Wait until the ground freezes before adding mulch. If the ground is too warm, the plants will not completely harden off for the winter.

√ Don't trim ornamental grasses. They add variety to the yard and Birds love them during the winter.

Trees & Shrubs

√ Be sure that your tender plants are protected from frost. Mulching with bark, sawdust or straw will help create a blanket of protection over the root system. Should the weather get suddenly cold, place burlap, cloth or dark plastic over your tender plants to give them some added protection from the cold. Be sure to remove this covering when the weather has stabilized!

√ This month, and throughout the next several months, will be good times to transplant trees and shrubs. At this time of the year, most ornamentals have entered into dormancy, and can be safely dug and replanted. The key to transplanting is to dig a large root ball (get as much of the root system as is possible). Equally important, is getting the plant back into the prepared soil as quickly as possible, to keep the roots from drying out.



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(Only a transplanting fertilizer should be used at this time of the year.) Large trees or shrubs should be staked to protect them from wind whipping during winter storms. Keep them staked until the roots have a chance to develop and anchor them.

√ As soon as the leaves fall from fruit trees, shade or flowering trees, raspberries and other deciduous plants, they can be sprayed with a dormant spray. This spraying helps control over-wintering insects and diseases. Peach trees need a fungicide to control coryneum blight, while apple trees may benefit from an insecticide to control the wooley apple aphid. Apply according to label instructions

√ Prune your evergreens to shape.

√ Water new planted shrubs and older trees if the weather is warm and dry.

√ Spray Wilt Prufe on all broadleaf evergreens to help prevent dehydration during the cold winter weather. Spray when the temperature is above 40 F. and the spray has time to dry before it freezes.

Vegetables & Fruits

√ Cut the tops off your asparagus plants, and add a winter dressing of aged manure to the bed.

√ Cover strawberries two inches deep with leaves or straw.

√ Secure your raspberry canes to stakes to protect them from wind whipping. Remove any canes that are more than 2 years old. Trim the younger canes so the snow will not break them.

√ Sort apples in storage and remove spoiled fruit.

√ Clean and remove fallen fruit from around trees to reduce insects and disease next year.

Houseplants

√ Winter heating dries the air out in your home considerably. Help your house plants survive by misting them or placing the pots on a pebble filled tray of water to ensure adequate humidity and moisture.

√ Pot up some spring flowering bulbs for indoor color during the winter. Store the pots in a cool, dark place for about 8 to 12 weeks. When new growth emerges from the soil, move them to a bright window and watch them bloom.

√ Continue to watch for insect or disease damage and take the necessary steps to control the problem.

√ Amaryllis - The size of your bulb will determine how many flowers it should produce. 26cm bulbs generally have one or two flower stalks with 3 to 5 blossoms on each stalk. 34 cm bulbs generally have two or three flower stalks with 3 to 5 blossoms on each stalk. 40 cm bulbs generally have two to five flower stalks with 3 to 5 blossoms on each stalk.

√ Paperwhites - Paperwhite bulbs don't need a cold treatment to bloom. Just plant them in a pot with gravel. Add water just to the base of the bulb, do not let the bulbs sit in water or they will rot. Put the bulbs in a cool area (35 to 50 F) until the shoots begin to grow. Once the shoots are 2" tall, move them into an area to watch them grow and bloom. Paperwhite stems get tall, be sure to support them as they grow.

Miscellaneous

√ Feed the birds and other small creatures which may not be able to find food due to snow on the ground or other causes. Their natural food sources have pretty much dried up by this time of the year. For only a few dollars you can feed an enormous number of birds.

√ Stop feeding pond fish when the water temperature drops below 50 degrees F.

√ Drain your hoses and put them away so they don't freeze and burst.

√ Continue to watch for insect, slug and snail, or disease damage throughout the garden, and take the necessary steps to control the problem.

√ Clean and oil your garden tools for winter storage. Place some sand and some oil in a large bucket, then slide your garden tools in and out of the sand. This will do an excellent job of cleaning them, as well as applying a light coat of oil to prevent rusting.

√ Protect ornamental and fruit trees and young plants from deer damage by wrapping or enclosing in wire screen.

√ Start a compost pile with fall leaves. Turn compost pile to hasten breakdown.

√ Winter mulch: Once the ground freezes, apply a layer of winter mulch to perennial beds – don't do this too early or you'll provide winter shelter for rodents.

√ Weeding: Do one last weeding and discard any weeds that have seeds on them in the garbage instead of the compost. You don't want those pesky seeds sprouting

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in your garden later.

√ Good winter care starts with thorough watering in the fall. When the garden season draws to a close, it is tempting to just forget about your plants. However you should continue to water all woody plants - especially newly planted trees and shrubs and all evergreens in the fall. Be extra watchful for plants under decks, balconies or large trees which do not receive the natural moisture. You may need to water them, or shovel snow on them, during the winter to keep them moist.

√ Water them well until the ground freezes, and make sure you water adequately through a dry fall. These plants will need the equivalent of one inch of rain per week. (In a wet fall, you can relax.)

√ Evergreens and broadleaf evergreens don't lose their leaves, so they need a good store of moisture going into winter because they continue to transpire (give off water vapor) through the cold months.

√ Most winter damage to evergreens doesn't actually come from cold, but from the drying effects of late winter sun and wind. With the soil frozen hard, plant roots can't take up water to make up for moisture losses from transpiration and, as a result, dehydration can cause browning or burning of foliage.

√ To learn more about Deer Proofing your yard, please read our [*Animal Repellent Handout*](#), or download a copy of [*Minimizing Deer Damage*](#) from the Utah division of Wildlife Resources.

<http://wildlife.utah.gov/habitat/deer-browse.php>

√ Start planning your garden for next year.

Lawn

√ If you haven't already applied a fall or winter type of lawn fertilizer, now is the time to do it. This encourages good root development and helps improve the color of the lawn.

√ Give your lawn a good raking to lift away accumulations of debris. Keep leaves raked from the lawn. They should be composted. Alternatively, you can just mow over them, turning them to a mulch which adds important nutrients back to the lawn.

√ When you have finished your last mowing of the year, make sure that it is properly stored. Run it until it is out of fuel.... old gas can turn to varnish, and severely damage the engine. If fuel is to remain in power equipment, add

fuel stabilizer.

√ Continue to mow into the fall at 1 1/2 to 2 inches. Cut the lawn shorter the last time you mow to help prevent snowmold. After you are finished, why not get your mower serviced and its blade sharpened now so it will be ready for spring?

√ If snowmold has been a problem in previous years, apply a fungicide just before the first snowfall to help prevent it. You can also remove the snow, or make it melt faster, by spreading humate or fireplace ashes in the early spring.

Wild Bird

√ What is the best location for my feeders?

Ideally a sheltered southeastern exposure. Birds like to feed in the sun and out of the wind. They also prefer not to have any obstructions over their feeding area so as to be able to see an attacking predator.

√ Should I feed all year round and why?

Yes. As with the fall and winter, spring and summer are also important times of the year to feed the birds. Spring time feeding provides the supplemental nourishment birds need to recover from migration. Summertime feeding helps reduce the stress of nesting at a time when natural seed supplies are at their lowest.

√ Should I have more than one feeder in my yard?

A greater variety of feeders and seed will attract a greater variety of birds.