



Putting Your Garden to Bed for the Winter

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Agenda

- Your Garden in Winter
- Fall Gardening Activities
 - Establish new plantings
 - Prepare existing plantings for winter
 - Other

*We're discussing general rules.
Always follow directions specific to your situation.*

Your Plants in Winter



Annuals



Perennials/Biennials



Woodyies

Questions?



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Plant – New Flower Bed



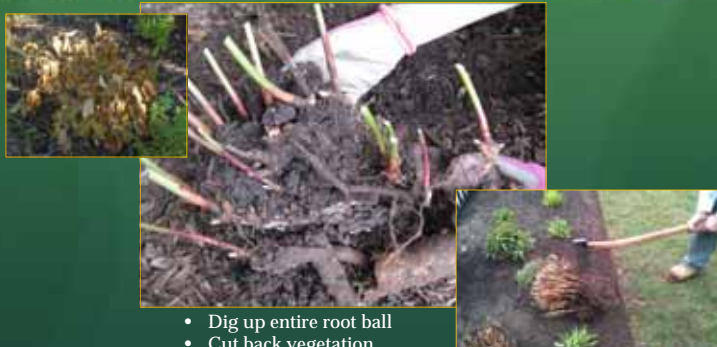
- Cut turf as short as possible
- Lay newspaper (5 layers) or cardboard & dampen
- Plant perennials through newspaper
- Mulch and water

Create “Lasagna” Bed

Seed Free Organic Matter Mulch 6 inch (15 cm) of straw, hay, bark, wood shavings or horse manure.
Compost or Soil 2 inch (5 cm) of compost or soil (this may be substituted by manure).
Bulk Mulch 2 inch (5 cm) of 2" thick straw or hay, wood shavings or bark. (Bark and cut a 2" curtain behind the mulch in the front. The back is optional, and will improve soil fertility. Bark is best for shrubs, grasses or trees in beds, shrubs and soil.)
Nitrogen Material 4 inch (10 cm) of other types of organic matter, such as fresh grass clippings or kitchen scraps. (Through the composting process, nitrogen is released.)
Sheet Mulch 1 layer newspaper or cardboard to smother existing plants. (Sheeting edges by 4" and water newspaper about 1" thick. Some plant sprouts may break through. Do not walk on this layer.)
High Nitrogen Material 4 inch (10 cm) of soil with a high level of nitrogen, such as a 10:1 ratio of manure to soil. (This material is optional and should be added to the base of the bed.)
Soil Amendments If there are any soil amendments to add, add all at once to the base of the bed.
Existing Vegetation If there is any existing vegetation, cut it off and remove it from the site.
Existing Soil A 2 inch (5 cm) deep layer.



Divide Crowded Perennials



- Dig up entire root ball
- Cut back vegetation
- Divide roots into “plantlets” with roots and viable stems/eyes

Winterize Containers



Your goal: keep from freezing and drying out

- Tip: use plants harder than minimum
- Remove weeds and dead vegetation
- Maintain soil mass by burying or grouping pots or store in unheated interior
- Water thoroughly
- Mulch with straw, leaves, shredded newspaper, etc.
- Protect from rodents
- Keep soil from completely drying out, especially for evergreens

Winterize Flower Bed

1. Remove diseased plant material
2. Remove weeds and unwanted debris
3. Dig up and store tender perennials or bulbs
4. Divide overcrowded perennials
5. Plant new perennials and Spring-flowering bulbs
6. Gently scratch soil surface with rake or hand tool to smooth



Winterize Flower Bed

7. Apply any recommended soil amendments and rake again
8. Scatter seeds of perennials and annuals as desired
9. Apply 2-4" of light mulch (dead leaves, straw, dried grass clippings)*
10. Water thoroughly
11. Leave non-diseased dead plant material for winter interest
12. Remove undesired dead plant material after hard frost or in late Spring



Winterize Vegetable Garden

- Harvest remaining crops
- Leave any root vegetables you intend to harvest later in place
- Remove all dead vegetable plant material
- Gently scratch soil surface with rake to smooth (do not till)
- Apply any recommended soil amendments and rake again
- Plant any cold crops
- Apply thick layer of compost
- Apply 2-4" of light mulch (dead leaves, straw, dried grass clippings)
- Water thoroughly



Winterize Trees & Shrubs

1. Plant new trees and shrubs
2. Prune broken or diseased branches and undesired dead branches
3. Do not prune unnecessarily. Major pruning should be done in late Winter or early Spring
4. Apply 2-4" of medium heavy mulch (wood chips) to recent plantings
5. Water thoroughly
6. Protect any tender woody plants (figs, young evergreens, etc.)
7. Install deer or rodent guards as necessary



Winterize Turf Grass

- Mow until growth ceases
- Seed in September
- Sod in September/October
- Fertilize, dethatch & aerate through early October
- Apply eco-friendly herbicides & pesticides through early October
- Mow over or rake leaves
- Water as needed



Other Activities

- Drain and store garden hoses
- Rinse empty pots and store upside-down
- Clean and sharpen hand tools
- Clean and maintain power equipment
- Cover soil, mulch, or compost piles as necessary
- Pick and dry desired herbs
- Compost non-diseased plant material
- Leave fallen leaves in place (mow over any on lawn)
- Clean bird houses
- Hang bird feeders

