



Putting Your Garden to Bed for the Winter

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Create New Plant Beds:

- Mow area as short as possible
- Outline desired area with garden hose or other marker(s)
- Apply any recommended amendments and thin layer of compost
- Cover with 3 to 6 layers of newspaper
- Apply 2-4" of medium heavy mulch (wood chips/twigs mixed with light mulch) and/or compost*
- Remove hose/marker(s)
- Water area thoroughly
- In Spring, plant through newspaper

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
- Apply thick layer of compost
- Apply 2-4" of light mulch (dead leaves, straw, dried grass clippings)*
- Water thoroughly

Flower Beds:

- Remove diseased plant material
- Remove weeds and unwanted debris
- Dig up and store tender perennials or bulbs
- Divide overcrowded perennials
- Plant new perennials and Spring-flowering bulbs
- Gently scratch soil surface with rake or hand tool to smooth
- Apply any recommended soil amendments and rake again
- Scatter seeds of perennials and annuals as desired
- Apply 2-4" of light mulch (dead leaves, straw, dried grass clippings)*
- Water thoroughly
- Leave non-diseased dead plant material for winter interest
- Remove undesired dead plant material after hard frost or in late Spring



Trees and Shrubs

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

Containers

- Remove any weeds or dead vegetation
- Water thoroughly
- Mulch individual containers
- Bury smaller containers or cluster together, then cover with dried leaves or straw
- Or store in unheated garage or basement
- Protect from rodents as necessary
- Do not let them dry out completely over course of winter (lightly water during warm spells)

Turf

- 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

* More than 2" of mulch encourages voles and other pests