

November in the Garden

Planting

Many garden centers and florists will have Amaryllis bulbs for sale and often they are already planted in a pot and all you need to do is add water. Amaryllis are long lived plants that can be grown as blooming house plants during the winter and as foliage plant outdoors during the summer with a 8 week rest period in your basement during the fall.

Winterize your tools by cleaning all surfaces and wiping cleaned metal surfaces down with an oily cloth.

Inside Jobs

Most houseplants should be watered sparingly from late autumn to mid-spring, letting the soil dry out between waterings. Most houseplants are dormant for most of the winter, so they don't use much water.

Winterize your lawn mowers by scraping off all dirt, rust and accumulated grass clippings. Remove the sparkplug and drain oil and gas. Replace the oil and store mowers in a dry place.

This is a good time to clean and oil your hand tools. Sharpen and remove any rust from the blades, sand and paint handles if they are wood.

Drain, coil, and tie up your hoses in a storage area where they will not freeze to keep them flexible and useable without holes for next year.

Clean your clay pots, garden ornaments, and birdbaths with a 10% bleach solution and dry and store them inside.

Yard and Garden Maintenance

Add a "green manure" to your garden site by planting a cover crop. This adds organic material to the soil and cuts down on weeds in spring.

Give extra water to evergreen shrubs and trees. Continue watering until the ground freezes to prevent winter burn.

After chrysanthemums have stopped blooming, cut stems back close to the ground and dispose of stems and all dropped and dried leaves and branches.

Reduce peony botrytis blight by removing and disposing of all old stems. This will reduce the carryover of the diseases during the winter and you will have less trouble next year.

Paint young fruit trees trunks and scaffold limbs with a white latex paint thinned with water or use truck tree wraps to protect the trees from sunscald and bark splits.

Protect branches of loosely branched evergreens like arborvitae and yews from heavy snow and ice buildup by tying up the branches with twine, or trimming back really long branches. (These pruning scraps can be used in your holiday decorations).

Remove mulch and weeds from around the base of fruit trees and woody shrubs to prevent mice from hiding and eating the bark.

Also, if you have fruit trees, remove all old fruit, dead leaves and prune off any damaged or diseased limbs to control insects and diseases.