

Putting The Garden To Bed

- Discussion of our climate and how plants “harden off” in fall
- **Getting ahead of Spring Projects**
 - Slugs: Protect prone plants from slugs using natural slug control like Sluggo – won’t harm people/pets/wildlife. Clean up debris around prone plants.
 - Weeds: With rainy fall weather comes a new crop of weeds - consider spraying on dry day or pulling them before they go to seed.
 - Cutting back Perennials: “mushers”, “sticks”, and “evergreens.” Learn what to do with perennials as they go dormant for the winter.
 - Cleaning up debris and/or mulching: Try and find the balance between Mother Nature leaving you natural debris to protect soil and cleaning up some areas.
- **Storing bulbs:** Dahlias, Begonias, Cannas, etc. – lots of options. With good drainage, some can be left in ground - to ensure having them back dig and store.
- **Protecting the lawn:** Watch for patch diseases fall through winter. Make sure turf has been fed at some point in the fall for happy grass coming out of winter. Also consider an application of Lime to your lawn - rain will soak it in and alter your pH for less moss/better turf down the road.
- **Dormant Spraying:** Try using Horticultural Oil/Liquicop combination for all. Had a problem with an insect or disease the previous season? Then protect your plants for next year with these natural products. Be sure to clean up diseased foliage and completely remove from garden.
- **Fruit and Berries:** Preparing for next year – clean them up and mulch, removing foliage from ground and old fruits. Protect your crops and utilize a dormant spray schedule during the fall and winter months.
- **Overwintering the vegetable garden:** Use lime, compost and consider cover crops. Some cool season veggies (for example carrots, beets, lettuce) may continue to produce well into the fall, but clean up warm season crops. Consider using row cover to extend some frost protection later into the fall. Bed empty for the winter? Try planting cover crop to protect soil and add nutrients for spring.
- **Preparing Roses for winter:** Hip high in the fall about Veteran’s Day or so! Be sure to clean up fallen foliage and deadhead flowers. At some point over the winter, make it go dormant if it is a mild winter.

- **Protecting Tender Specimens:** Houseplant – garage plant – basement plant
 - Greenhouse? You are the lucky one! You can overwinter it all!
- **Transplanting/Dividing specimens:** All can be done during dormant season! You have until March 1st or so in most winters to get these two done. Be sure to take enough root on shrubs/trees – some things cannot be bare rooted. For perennials, try using the Rootslayer shovel and make your life easy.
- **Fall is for planting:** You need warm soil and wet ground for root systems to establish in the fall – keep on planting and transplanting and use organic transplanter, like Sure Start from EB Stone and compost.
- **Fall Pruning:** Wait until a hard frost so that plants are dormant. Do not prune evergreens in the fall or over winter – hit ‘em coming out of winter. On deciduous plants, remove diseased/damaged wood and spent blooms on plants like Hydrangeas for example.