

Winter To Dos

- Apply Corn Gluten Meal to your yard as an organic weed preventative with nitrogen to suppress weed germination and provide a boost for Spring growth.
- Apply mulch at the base of all plants for water retention and root insulation as temperatures dip down. This will also aid in weed suppression.
- Deep water all plants when we are expecting a freeze so the moist soil will help insulate the roots and decrease the potential for cold injury. Moist soil holds more heat than dry soil and encourages the plants' natural metabolism to continue.
- Keep frost cloth on hand if there is threat of frost to mitigate foliage damage and cold shock. Be sure to bunch it up around the soil level and secure it in place with anchor pins or something with weight.
- Invest in space heaters to warm your garage and/or greenhouse areas for sufficient winter protection. Raise potted plants off the cold ground to allow warm airflow.
- Move citrus trees in your garage or close to the house for residual heat and wind/frost protection. Deep water if expecting a freeze and mulch for further protection.
- Bring tender tropical plants indoors and cut back on watering, allowing them to naturally go dormant. Take this time to inspect for any unwanted pests or insects.
- Clean birdbaths and feeders, and keep well stocked for any critters in need this winter.
- Clean out your garden beds, collecting leaves & organic matter and adding them to your compost bins. Collect twigs, branches, and straw to line your new beds in Spring. You can also bunch up leaves at the base of your plants as a natural mulch.
- Plant wildflowers in mid-November and cover with a soil/compost mix for Spring growth. Take this time to collect seed pods from your annual and perennial plants.
- Plant cool season crops like leafy greens or root vegetables and fertilize with a slow release, organic granular that will provide key nutrients over the course of Winter.
- Plant cool season flowers & foliage, and deadhead as needed to encourage reblooming.
- Take some time to disinfect, sharpen, and oil your garden tools so they are ready to go for late winter pruning and Spring prep. Wash with soap and water, and soak in vinegar to eliminate rust build up, then store in a dry location.