

NOVEMBER

PLANT



- Evergreens and deciduous plants can be planted until the ground freezes.
- Plants to attract birds: bittersweet, Virginia creeper, berry shrubs, crabapples, dogwood, hawthorns, hollies, mulberry, shad-bush, cedar and spruce.
- Spring flowering bulbs as directed by supplier.
- Cabbage and Kale in red, pink and white - they will begin coloring up once the night temperatures drop into the 30's and 40's.
- Transplant deciduous trees and shrubs after pruning back.
- If you are planning to plant a live Christmas tree after the holidays, dig the hole now. It may have to be enlarged in January before planting but you'll have a head start before the ground freezes.
- Plant peonies, lily bulbs and Dutch Iris in already prepared beds and mulch heavily.

PRUNE

- Cut back mums and perennial stems that are finished blooming or winter killed. Dispose of stems, do not compost.
- Do not prune early spring blooming shrubs and trees except to remove awkward, damaged or diseased branches. Perennial herbs should be cut back now for better growth next year. Use dried herb stems to add beauty and fragrance to wreaths and dried flower arrangements.



FERTILIZE

- Feed lilacs and wisteria with manure and compost now (not during the spring and summer).
- Fertilize deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs with 5-10-5 after they are fully dormant, to promote early spring growth.
- Scatter bone meal on established plantings of daffodils.
- Use Hollytone for evergreens

MULCH

- After the ground freezes and beds are cleaned up, mulch the gardens with 2 inches of rotted sawdust, pine needles, straw, bark and or buckwheat hulls. Be careful when mulching not to cover crowns of foxglove, Canterbury bells, holly hocks and garden pinks. Also after the first hard freeze, mulch roses. (see December) Protect plants from both wind and sun. South and west side of the house are most vulnerable to winter freezing and thawing.



WATER

- Spray foliage and water broadleaf evergreens thoroughly before the ground freezes. Leaves curl on rhodies due to lack of moisture when temperature is below 20 degrees. Use an antidessicant before temperature drops below 10 degrees.
- Some evergreens will shed their interior needles in winter: arborvitae, juniper, pine, yew. This is normal.

CHORES

- Cut the lawn for the last time and remove leaves.
- If you have newly planted trees with guy wires, check to be sure the wires are still covered with hose sections. Trunks can easily be damaged in windy weather. These tree supports can be removed in the Spring if they have been on for a full growing season.
- Cut suckers away from the bases of crape-myrtle, forsythia and lilacs.
- Tender broad-leaved evergreens such as Camellia and Japanese holly may need wind breaks for protection when they are first planted.
- Pot up herbs like chives and parsley to keep on a warm windowsill. Many herbs can be dried by hanging upside down in a garage or placed on top of the refrigerator after washing.
- Continue to feed birds.

- Prepare for spring planting for beds (not for evergreens). Dig deeply into soil, enrich with compost. Have soil tested to determine lime and other nutrient needs. Tilling or turning the garden soil now causes most hibernating insects to be killed by exposure to winter weather.
- Remember to clean and store your hand tools so they will be ready for use next year. A light coating of oil on metal parts is a good rust preventative.
- Turn off faucets and drain hoses after disconnecting them.



HINTS

- ***Remember that more young transplants perish from thirst rather than cold so mulch and water ajuga, sasanqua camellias, eleagnus, winter sweet, witch hazel, nandinas, ornamental grasses (do not cut back until first growth appears in spring) and evergreens.***
- ***Some junipers turn a plum color in winter which appeals as a contrast to all the green shades.***