

Fall/End of Season Clean-Up List

Vegetable/Fruit Gardens

- Remove dead plant debris, especially from any diseased plants.
- Pick up any fallen fruit and compost.
- Prune last year's berry canes and any fruit trees you trim in the fall
- Move or split any fall transplants, plant onions and garlic.
- Collect and clean any pots, trellises, cages, birdbaths, statues, etc. which could be damaged by the winter weather.
- Top dress with compost (some of you will like to do this in the spring.)
- Cover any bare soil (I use leaves and chemical free-lawn clippings, you can also use plastic row covers, cardboard or plant a cover crop.)

Flower Beds

- Clear out dead plant debris or leave it.
- Lift and bring in tender perennials.
- Split or move any fall transplants
- Cover any bare soil (I like to use leaves and chemical-free lawn clippings.)
- Make sure evergreen shrubs are well watered until the ground freezes to reduce winter burn.

Pets/Livestock

- Check and make repairs to your coups/sheds/kennels/fences.
- Make sure you're set up how you like with insulation, bedding, electricity, heaters/lamps, water and food dishes.
- Store food securely as wild food sources become scarce.
- Freshen up and hang birdfeeders and re-stock.
- Clean out birdhouses as necessary.

Lawn

- Clip grass. I like to do this after the leaves have all fallen, then I bag the clippings and mulch my garden beds with the leaf/grass mix. You can also leave it on your lawn, it's better for building your soil quality if you leave the leaves instead of raking them up.
- Cover or bring in your furniture, grills, lanterns/torches, fire pit, clothes lines, etc.
- Bring in or winterize sprinklers and hoses.

House

- Disconnect, empty and bring in rain barrels (even if yours are staying outside for the winter, still empty them before they freeze solid and split the barrel.) Put on or close your storm windows/doors.
- Remove and bring in downspout extensions.

Equipment/Machines

- Clean and winterize lawn equipment like lawn mowers, weed eaters, leaf blowers, rototillers, chainsaws or trimmers etc.
- Clean and oil or paint wheel barrows. Store so that the bucket cannot fill with rain/snow/ice.
- Clean garden tools, and rub with oil. (Sharpen if you do it yourself, or wait till spring when the local nurseries provide sharpening services.)
- Bring out snowblower or plow and get running for the season.
- Gather snow shovels and window scrapers and stage them in a handy place for your first big snow!