



Fall Planting Guidelines

In addition to following the steps in our Planting Guide, fall planting requires a few extra steps to ensure good results with your new plants!

1. **Keep Watering.....**
The plants still need to be watered until the **ground freezes**. With shorter and cooler days, you may not have to water as often but your new plants still need to be watered consistently. A good source of water to carry the plants through the winter is a must!
2. As always – good soil is the key to planting success. If you have good soil in which to plant – great. If your soil is of lesser quality, you should seriously consider amending with at least 1/3 of a good landscape soil mix. **Good soil is everything.**
3. The plants need to be mulched! The ground surface surrounding the plants needs to be covered and protected over the winter to prevent damage to the plants with hard, deep frosts, or alternate freezing and thawing. Bark mulch helps prevent damage to roots by providing some insulation..
 - The type of mulch used ideally would be shredded bark mulch vs. rock mulch. The bark mulch provides much more of an insulation value. Mulch should be applied at a rate of approximately 2" to 3" deep. Rock mulch tends to conduct cold instead of providing insulation.
 - Perennials are best mulched after there is 1-2" of frost in the ground. If you do not think you can mulch thoroughly after the ground begins to freeze – it is better to mulch ahead of freezing weather than to go without any mulch!
4. Trees – Stake newly planted trees for one full growing season to help them root in firmly and straight. **BE SURE** to remove ropes, stakes, & ties after one year so you do not damage the bark of the trees, or reposition the ties to slightly different spots on the tree.
5. Fertilizing – After August 1st, fertilize very modestly or not at all.. When you fertilize a plant, you are encouraging it to continue to grow rather than to start its fall to winter dormancy period. If a plant is continuing to grow and push out new growth for too long into the fall, and you have a hard frost, you may encounter "tip die back" or "freezing green" of the plant. This may result in having to trim back the plant next growing season. Be ready to begin a fertilization program in the spring!
6. Perennials ---- follow above for watering, mulching & fertilizing, additionally do not cut back the foliage on the perennials until it has turned brown and died back. Cut back ornamental grasses in the spring.
7. Make sure you thoroughly root prune all potted plants prior to planting. (Follow our instruction sheet). Root pruning liberates the roots for proper future growth. **Very Important.**

Fall Landscape & Garden Check-up List

September

- Plant spring flowering bulbs and work bone meal into bottom of planting holes for better growth
- Divide and replant perennials such as peonies & irises
- Water young trees and shrubs
- Now is the best time to seed new lawns, patch bare spots, and install sod. There isn't as much competition with weed seeds now. Best if done by Sept. 15th.
- Apply broadleaf weed-killer and fertilizer for lawn care, but not to newly seeded lawns.
- Keeping weeding – eliminate the weeds before they seed and you have more problems next season!
- These perennials should be divided now – Asiatic Lilies, Bearded Iris, Daylily, Jacob's Ladder, Peony, Tall Phlox, and Siberian Iris.

October

- Clean garden beds and work compost into soil for spring plantings.
- Cover tender roses before temperatures dip below 25 degrees. Hardy shrub roses don't need to be covered.
- Rake and recycle leaves for better air circulation and lawn-disease control.
- Mow lawn until frost stops the growth – tall, matted grass encourages snow mold.
- Wrap young and thin-barked trees to protect against sunscald and animal damage.
- Remove garden debris after the first frost to help minimize soil diseases and insects.
- Clean up leaves and other debris especially from under crabapple and fruit trees. This will help prevent the spread of fungus and disease next season.
- If you haven't planted your spring bulbs – do so now.

November

- Early to mid-month, be ready to cover perennials with mulch to protect the crowns of the plants from alternate freezing & thawing. Best if we have 2" or so of frost in the ground.
- Water all the trees, shrubs and evergreens, especially new plantings, just before the ground becomes frozen.
- Install hardware cloth or other fencing that extends above snow level to keep animals away.

WINTER

General Winter Season Tips

- Check perennials for signs of heaving – if this occurs, re-cover with mulch.
- Oaks, Honeylocust, Crabapples, Fruit Trees, Mountain Ash, Hawthorn, and Elms are best pruned now – rather than summer.
- Keep evergreens and shrubs free of heavy snow.
- Determine what flowers and planting techniques worked last season and plan accordingly.

March

- Finish dormant pruning of ornamental trees, fruit trees, Elms & Oaks.

Special Note on Endless Summer Hydrangea

These plants need an extra step to help ensure good results for over the winter. Late fall, cut these plants down to 10"-12" and then cover the entire plants with shredded bark mulch. This thoroughly insulates the plant. Mid-March, be sure to pull away the mulch (and use it elsewhere) & the plant will begin its spring growth flush.