

FALL PLANTING GUIDELINES



1601 Hwy 19 W, Northfield, MN 55057



Knecht's Nurseries & Landscaping takes pride in guiding you through the dos and don'ts of fall planting. Apart from the instructions in our Planting Guide, successful fall planting involves taking some additional steps to guarantee optimal outcomes for your new plants!

FALL FERTILIZER DATES

- 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!



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!

New 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.

THE BENEFITS OF MULCH

Bark or shredded hardwood mulch applied correctly with new plants will help insulate the roots and prevent damage from hard, deep frosts, or alternate freezing and thawing. Mulching will also help with moisture retention.

- Mulch should be applied over the roots approximately 3" to 4" deep. Avoid piling mulch up against the base of the new plant.
- 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!
- Rock mulch does not provide the same benefits as it tends to conduct cold instead of providing insulation.

Soil Matters

- Loosen soil when planting and add a time-release fertilizer for your new roots to establish quickly.
- Heavy, compacted, or poor soil may benefit from amendments like compost, peat, or black dirt. Use only 20 to 30% amendment evenly blended with your soil.



Perennials

- Follow above for watering, mulching & fertilizing.
- Do not cut back the foliage on the perennials until it has turned brown and died back.
- Cut back ornamental grasses in the spring.

Root Prune Potted Plants

- 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



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Follow our Fall Guide to create the best success for your lawn, trees and plants.

	<p>September</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant spring flowering bulbs (work bone meal into bottom of planting holes for better growth). • Water young trees and shrubs. • Now is the best time to seed new lawns, patch bare spots, and install sod. 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 to avoid problems next season! • These perennials should be divided now: Asiatic Lilies, Bearded Iris, Daylily, Jacob's Ladder, Peony, Tall Phlox, and Siberian Iris.
	<p>October</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean garden beds and work compost into soil for spring plantings. • Cover tender roses before temps 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.
	<p>November</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
	<p>WINTER – General Winter Season Tips</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
	<p>March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finish dormant pruning of ornamental trees, fruit trees, Elms & Oaks.