



End-of-Season Checklist

BED MAINTENANCE

- Clean garden beds of any diseased plant material and amend with compost and manure.
- Leave plants with vines, seed heads or tall plumes for visual interest and wildlife habitat.
- After a hard frost, cut to the ground any perennials that are diseased or that you don't want to self-seed.

SOIL

- Mulch all uncovered soil with leaves, straw or hay.
- Perform a soil test. Kits are available at most County Extension offices. This allows you to know how to amend the soil. You can use any soil lab. UI's lab charges \$35.



FLOWERS

- Plant spring-flowering bulbs before the first frost.
- Divide/move spring-blooming perennials if you wish.
- Dig, dry and store summer-flowering bulbs such as dahlias, tuberous begonias and gladiolus to replant in spring.

PERENNIALS

- Mark still-living plants with stakes or draw a reference map.
- Prune deciduous shrubs such as spirea and potentilla to promote spring growth.

TREES

- Wrap the trunks of newly planted and thin-barked trees (such as apple, cherry, honey locust, linden, maple and plum) with hardware cloth to protect against sunscald and rodent damage.



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WATER

- Keep trees, shrubs and evergreens well-hydrated until the ground freezes.
- Let hoses drain before circling and hanging for winter. Hang a bucket over a hook and store nozzles and sprinkler attachments.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Bring in houseplants that spent summer outdoors but quarantine them for a couple of weeks inside. Treat as appropriate for any apparent bugs.
- Empty clay and concrete pots, birdbaths and other items, and store them upside down in the garage or basement to prevent damage.
- Mow grass as long as it's growing. Don't leave the leaves on the grass, compost or mulch with mower, and use for perennial and bulb beds. Aerate and reseed as needed.

EQUIPMENT

- Drain all fuel tanks on power equipment and check manuals.
- Tool maintenance—sharpen blades, clean garden tools, and coat with vegetable oil for protection.

Adapted from Mother Earth News Farmer's Almanac

By Kathy M. Cassin, Master Gardner

MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

Master Gardeners . . .

- Attend weekly workshops January thru May
- Expand knowledge in botany, composting, organic gardening, weeds, plant diseases, pruning, entomology, and much more
- Learn to research and answer gardening questions
- Enjoy community service opportunities
- Share knowledge with others
- Meet new friends

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

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