FALL GARDENING CHECKLIST



- ☐ Fall is a great time to plant! See our "Creating Winter Interest" guide for suggestions.
- ☐ Sow or plant cold crops like Pansies, Violas, and Kale for fall, winter and spring color.
- ☐ Sow perennial and biennial seeds early fall so they can establish and winter over for blooming next year.
- ☐ Plan and purchase your spring bulb combinations; plant until the ground freezes. This goes for garlic too!
- ☐ Layer small bulbs on top of larger varieties (Grape Hyacinth on Daffodils or Chionodoxa on Tulips).
- ☐ Try deer resistant bulb varieties such as Allium, Fritillaria, or the Hyacinth family.
- ☐ Apply **Bulb-tone®** or **Bone Meal** to spring bulbs as you plant them.
- ☐ Fill a container garden with spring bulbs, fall mums, kale, pansies, small evergreens, and ivy for fall to spring color.
- ☐ Transplant and divide spring to mid-summer blooming perennials in the fall (opposite season they bloom).
- ☐ Continue planting trees and shrubs until the soil freezes; apply **Bio-Tone®** to establish roots quickly.
- ☐ When planting any plant, dig the hole the depth of the plant's container, but twice as wide. Separate the roots of the plant, place in the hole and backfill with a mixture of 1 part existing soil and 1 part **Petitti Planting Mix.**
- ☐ Aerate the lawn, loosening compacted clay soil and allowing air, water and nutrients to penetrate the soil.
- ☐ Dethatch lawn if needed, removing decaying/dead grass and increasing air circulation.
- ☐ Late Summer/Early Fall is the best time to re-seed or over-seed your lawn (grade, seed, rake it in, cover with ¼" soil, use a starter fertilizer or a slow release fertilizer without weed control, water).
- ☐ Fertilize lawn with a **4th step fertilize**r (Fall or Winterizer) sometime after Labor Day thru Thanksgiving.
- ☐ Continue to treat persistent weeds in the lawn with **Bonide® Chickweed, Clover & Oxalis Killer, Trimec™ or Bonide® Sedge Ender®.**
- ☐ You can apply Iron-tone to lawns at this time for additional nutrients and greening.
- ☐ Apply **Scotts® DiseaseEx™** or **Bonide® Infuse™** if fungal diseases such as red thread or rust appear.
- ☐ For insects in the lawn, try **Eight** in a hose end sprayer or a granular insecticide like **Ortho® Bugclear**.

Additional checklist items are on the back side of this garden guide.

- ☐ For grubs in the lawn, apply **BioAdvanced 24 Hour Grub Killer**; it is too late to apply GrubEx® (apply spring/ early summer).
- ☐ On woody plants prune to remove any damaged or diseased growth; wait until spring to do any other major pruning.
- ☐ Deadhead roses, hydrangea, and clematis, but do not prune severely until next spring.
- ☐ Map and tag any new garden additions before you start cleaning and protecting for winter.
- ☐ Clean as you go removing stakes, spent annuals, cutting back established perennials that have no winter interest, etc.
- ☐ Dig and hang still ripening tomato plants in the garage to harvest the fruit later.
- ☐ Compost garden clean-up debris that is not weedy, disease or insect infested. Dispose of the rest.
- ☐ Lift and store any tender bulbs after a couple of frosts, like Cannas, Dahlias, Gladiolas, etc.
- ☐ Plan on slowly transitioning houseplants/tropicals from outdoors to indoors; after a couple of frosts, rinse them with a hard stream of water to remove insects, bring into the garage or under a covered patio, apply a houseplant systemic insect control to the soil, wait a week, cut growth back to a manageable height, and bring them indoors.
- ☐ Excellent time to cultivate, till the soil, and add amendments such as **Sweet Peet®** so it is ready to plant next spring.
- ☐ Test soil pH of garden if not done so this year (5.5-7.5), add lime if below 5.5, add Soil Acidifier if above 7.5.
- ☐ Apply a pre-emergent herbicide like **Preen®** to stop any fall weed seed germination.
- ☐ Sow **Winter Wheat** in vegetable/annual gardens to add Nitrogen to your soil and prevent weeds.
- ☐ Apply any winter protection materials just after the ground freezes (this includes mulch, burlap, straw, leaves, etc.)
- ☐ Use **Plantskydd®** or **Repels-All®** granules to discourage rodents from digging newly planted bulbs, trees and shrubs.
- ☐ Spray all the deer favorites with **Plantskydd®** before a hard freeze or wrap with deer fence or burlap for additional protection.
- ☐ Use vinyl tree wraps or aluminum foil to deter rabbit gnawing on bark and deer rubbing smaller trees.
- ☐ Apply **Wilt Stop®** to any broadleaf evergreens (Holly, Rhododendron, etc.) to prevent desiccation from winter winds.
- ☐ Drain and cover statuary, fountains and birdbaths. Cover and store outdoor furniture, cushions, umbrellas, etc.
- ☐ Clean and winterize any hand or garden tools. Drain and store any power tools.