



November Garden Tips

Fall is all around us and the holiday season is almost here. The leaves on the trees are changing colors and the warm-season grasses are going dormant. Despite this, the gardening season is not quite over yet. There are still a few things that you can do in your landscape before winter sets in.

Here are some November gardening tips to ensure that your garden remains in top form:

Perennials, annuals and bulbs

- Rake up all of the leaves from beneath roses to prevent black spot. Put those leaves in the trash; do not try to compost them. Do not compost any diseased leaves.
- Cut perennial stems to the ground once they start to die. You can also cut your chrysanthemum stems to the ground once they start to die. You should leave your ornamental grasses to provide winter interest until spring.
- This is a good time to plant spring-flowering bulbs. Consider planting bulbs such as winter aconite, glory of the snow, tulips, crocus, narcissus and grape hyacinths.
- During the earlier part of the month plant winter annuals such as pansies, violas, *Dianthus chinensis*, snapdragons, ornamental cabbage and kale. The earlier you plant in the month, the better the plants will respond.
- Be sure to mulch your flower beds with two to three inches of organic mulch or compost to regulate soil temperature and prevent winter plant injury from frost.

Shrubs and trees

- November is a best time of year to plant or transplant trees and shrubs. Water the freshly planted trees and shrubs thoroughly and then mulch

with a good organic material. Check your evergreens regularly during the winter to ensure that they are getting enough water.

- Mulch your existing trees and shrubs to reduce weeds, conserve moisture and to help regulate soil temperatures.

Lawn care

- You still have time to fertilize your fescue lawn. Always follow the label directions. Fertilizing your fescue will encourage good root development which will lead to a healthier lawn.
- Rake the leaves off of your lawn and compost them. Another option is to mow over the leaves shredding them into mulch. This will add nutrients back into the soil. I call it recycling.
- Apply a three-way herbicide in late November to control wild garlic or wild onion. Be sure to follow the directions on the label before applying.

Fruits and veggies

- To control overwintering insects and diseases on fruit trees, spray them with dormant oil after the leaves fall. Apply according to the instructions on the label.
- Add compost to your annual and vegetable garden beds for the next growing season.
- Remove any plant debris to help eliminate overwintering insects and diseases.
- Do not prune your fruit trees until late winter or early spring. Prune now only if you have diseased, damaged or dead limbs.

November is an excellent time to examine your garden and put these tips into practice. Your garden will thank you.

Speaking of being thankful, I do hope that you enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday! Don't eat too much turkey! Until next time, happy gardening!



Christopher Campbell