

# How to “Put Your Garden to Bed” and Prepare for Winter

## Fall Checklist for the Landscape

- Trim dead limbs
- Prune trees and shrubs when they are dormant.
- Fertilize trees and shrubs
- Protect plants from wind damage
- Mulch young plants
- Dry out irrigation systems
- Pot some plants to bring inside.
- Shield plants animals might eat or damage.

## Fall Checklist for Flower Gardens

- Get flowering bulbs in the ground, before it freezes.
- Pull dead or declining **annuals**.
- Most **perennials** can be cut back in the fall.
- Divide and replant overcrowded perennials
- **Tag plants** you want to divide in the spring.
- Test and amend your soil.
- Consider mulching for fewer weeds in the spring and better soil.
- Don't forget your tools and containers.

## Fall Checklist for the Vegetable Garden

- Till the garden in the late fall.
- Turn the soil over in raised beds.
- Test and amend your soil.
- Shred or mulch your leaves.
- Plant a cover crop.
- Clean your garden tools and containers.
- Plant for beneficial insects and native pollinators.

## Fall Checklist for the Lawn

- Gradually **lower the mowing height** of your mower.
- Winter should begin without any young, tender growth that makes your lawn more appealing to winter diseases.
- In October, be sure to give your lawn a final **fertilization**.
- **Clear your lawn** of any debris like logs, toys, or gardening equipment.
- Be sure to **aerate** your lawn before the first freeze.
- Winter is a great time to **relax, read and learn** more about your lawn in particular.