

Fall Garden Maintenance

Many homeowners tend to neglect lawn and garden areas as the fall and winter season approaches, believing these areas require little or no maintenance in the cooler weather.

Spring may be prime time for gardening, but fall and winter are prime time for keeping your soil and shrubbery in good shape in advance of the next season. The home-improvement pros at Realtor.com offer several tips to help keep your lawn and garden healthy.

CLEANUP

Every homeowner wants a nice-looking yard and garden regardless of the time of year. So take time this fall for a cleanup. Removing debris, fallen branches and dead leaves will decrease pests, disease and weed seeds that overwinter, landscape experts say. Obviously, a pristine landscape will be a source of pride and pleasing to the eye, as well.

In the garden, experts recommend cutting back on perennials, such as forsythia and peonies, leaving garden



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REAL ESTATE 101

Winterize Your Garden

Lawn and garden maintenance motivation is hard to come by after an active spring and summer. But if you relished the results of your labor this year, you'll find that same inspiration to continue your care into the fall and winter so you'll be ready when the warmer weather returns. The home care website The Spruce has more tips to help you winterize your garden and lawn at <https://bit.ly/2xssRdf>.

beds as clean as possible. This will prevent extra work in the spring and provide a clean slate for fall plantings.

FALL GARDENING

Fall is the perfect time to plant perennial shrubs and hardy bulbs, such as tulips, daffodils and hyacinths. Fall

planting gives bulbs time to take root in the cooler weather, experts say.

Chrysanthemums are a fall classic. You'll see them in garden centers wherever you are, so be sure to buy a bunch to add color to flower beds. Looking for variety? Try ginkgo biloba, burning bush, Japanese

maples or Montauk daisies if they're available. And, of course, pumpkins and gourds are a mainstay to complete your colorful fall landscape.

When gardening, going "green" takes on its most literal meaning. Use fallen leaves as mulch for your vegetable and flower gardens to give energy

to your garden.

Shredded bark and pine straw should be added to landscaping beds to provide acid to azaleas and rhododendron, plants which soak up these essentials.

CARETAKING

Remember to bring tender herb pots and your garden gear inside before cool weather turns frigid. Depending upon where you live, you can bring containers to a sun-drenched portion of an outdoor area to protect them from frost or store them indoors.

Gardening equipment, such as hoses and nozzles, need to be stored inside for protection. And don't forget any terra cotta pots. Freezes will chip and crack them, so bring those indoors, as well.

Don't let disease creep into your landscape. Deep cracks in bark or patches of fungus are indicators of problems, as are brittle branches. If you spot these issues early on in the season you'll thank yourself for taking care of them as soon as possible.

Fall gardening and lawn maintenance is not the "time off" some believe. Proper care takes some thought and planning, but it's a worthwhile endeavor to ensure your soil remains healthy and to prepare for the coming spring.



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HOMEWISSE GLOSSARY

Mechanic's lien: A financial claim created to enforce payment for work performed and materials provided on either building, repairing or improving a structure.
SOURCE: MLS.com

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