



# J&L Garden Center

The All Season Gift  
and Garden Center

620 North 500 West Bountiful, Utah 292-0421

The Gardening Newsletter

[www.JLGardenCenter.com](http://www.JLGardenCenter.com)

vol 16 issue 4 October November 2003

## Fall Gardening

Fall gardening is a very important part of how well your garden will look next spring and summer. Listed below are some of the items you may want to make sure you complete this fall. Check them off as you finish reading about them in our newsletter and complete them in your yard.

- Fertilize lawn for the winter.
- Spray weeds, especially morning glory & dandelions.
- Reduce water to trees & shrubs, but water occasionally
- Mulch roses and tender shrubs after the ground freezes.
- Trim and tie up shrubs before the snow falls.
- Harvest vegetables before the frost kills them.
- Dig up and store spring & summer bulbs.
- Spray lilac, peach trees, burning bush for diseases.
- Plant tulip, daffodil, and some 'Fun Bulbs'.
- Fertilize all bulbs planted in previous years.
- Divide perennials and prepare gardens for spring.
- Spread manure and roto-till this fall.
- Rake leaves & start a compost pile.
- Prepare the pond for winter.
- Enjoy the pretty leaves.
- Bring in the houseplants before the first frost.
- Try to outsmart the deer this winter!

This is not a complete list and it will vary from year to year. Make your own list of what needs to be done in your yard this fall and enjoy your fall gardening.

## J&L's Pumpkin Growing Contest

**Pumpkin Growers**, be sure to mark the following dates on your calendar and plan to attend **J&L's Largest Pumpkin Contest**. Every entry receives a ribbon, and, all pumpkins over 30 lbs will also receive a prize.

**Thursday to Sat Oct. 23 -25 ..... Pumpkin Registration**  
**Monday October 27 ..... Judge Pumpkins**  
**Mon to Thur Oct 27 -31 ..... Pick Up Pumpkin & Prize**

## Christmas Open House

**Thursday, Friday & Saturday**  
**November 13 - 15**

Come and see our great selection of Christmas Decorations, Supplies and Gifts. Our Garden Center will be transformed into a Christmas Wonderland. We have a full line of **Hofert** Indoor and Outdoor Lights, Artificial Christmas Trees, Garlands, Wreaths, Wire Framed Figures, and many more exciting Christmas decorations. We will also have many decorated trees which can help you see different ways you can decorate your own trees. Be sure to use the **October Gardening Coupon** for special savings during this event.

## Fall Lawn Care

Trees are dropping their leaves and it is important to prevent leaves from laying on your lawn very long. Leaves will shade the grass and can even kill the lawn during the winter. In addition, leaf cover stimulates a winter lawn disease known as snow mold.



The easiest way to dispose of these unwanted leaves is to simply mow them, bag them, and use them as compost in your gardens. Continue to mow your lawn at 1.5" to 2" long until the last time you mow your lawn for the year; then cut it as short as your lawn mower will go.

Many lawn weeds are still growing right now. **Morgro Weedit II** is a good spray to kill most weeds in the lawn including dandelions, morning glory, and clover. **Morgro Weedit II** will not kill any 'grassy weeds'; just the 'broadleaf weeds'. It is very hard to control the grassy weeds (crabgrass, foxtail grass, barnyard grass) this time of year. If you have any of these types of grassy weeds just pull as many as possible and apply **J&L Crabgrass & Spurge Control** in the spring to prevent these types of weeds next year.

October is usually a good time to fertilize your lawn. However, because the water will be shut off early this year, you may want to postpone your winter fertilization until November. Fertilizer stimulates grass to grow faster, which in turn makes the lawn require more water. A fertilized lawn will struggle and turn brown faster than a neglected lawn unless a consistent source of water is available. Fertilize your lawn with **J&L Fall & Winter Lawn Food** as soon as mother nature starts supplying water for you this fall (or winter): rain or snow.

## Morning Glory Control

Wild morning glory is also known as field bindweed and devil gut. Do not confuse wild morning glory with the annual morning glory vines that are easily controlled and bloom beautifully all summer. Wild morning glory grows in almost every part of the world and is one of nature's most persistent plants, with roots penetrating to a depth of more than ten feet. It also produces seeds that may germinate over a 20 year period. Wild morning glory is a tough problem in your yard, but you can control it if you have the persistence.

Chemical controls such as **Weedit II**, **Finale**, **Killzall**, or **Roundup** will kill this weed - but timing is critical. Spray wild morning glory this fall as soon as the temperature lowers to 40F, but while it is still growing. The more leaves that are present, the more effectively the chemical will be absorbed and translocated throughout the plant. Spraying after the first frost that kills your tomatoes and cucumbers is the best time of the entire year. Af-



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ter the first frost, morning glory starts going dormant by moving sugars from the leaves back into the root system for winter storage so, with a fall spray, you can get more of the herbicide down deep into the root system and kill it.

Although a single application of one of these weed killers will greatly reduce your morning glory infestation, you will probably not eradicate the weed with just one application, or even in one year. Young morning glory plants may arise in the spring from roots that weren't completely killed in the fall. Seeds may also germinate and grow for several years to come. Regular cultivation of your yard during the summer will give you the chance to remove these young plants before they have a chance to mature and become a real problem. We have a more detailed morning glory control handout available. Please stop by to pick one up or download it from our website.

## Fall Rose Care

Don't fertilize roses in the fall. Roses need time to 'harden off' before winter arrives. Roses growing too fast in the fall have new, 'soft' growth. This 'soft' growth is prone to winter injury while the older, 'hard' growth will tolerate the winter weather. Reduce the amount of water you apply to your roses this fall, again to help them 'harden off' before winter arrives. Don't pick rose flowers any more this fall. Let the blossoms mature into rose hips. Hip formation also helps the rose bush to 'harden off' for winter.

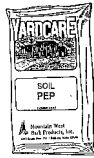
Prune your rose canes (except climbing roses and shrub roses) down to three or four feet high after the leaves completely freeze this winter. The only reason to prune roses in the fall is to prevent the snow from breaking the canes. Wait until spring to do your major rose pruning and shaping. In the spring, after the danger of frost is past, prune your roses to 14" to 20" tall.

Mulch your roses to protect the roots from severely cold temperatures. Let the ground and the roots freeze first, to become dormant, before covering them. The best way to mulch roses is to pile six inches of leaves, **Soil Pep**, **Small Bark**, or garden soil around each bush. Don't use grass clippings to mulch roses. Grass clippings can create a fungus problem that can damage your rose bushes during the winter.

## Fall Pruning

Fall is a good time to get your yard into shape for winter and spring. Trim your "**summer flowering**" shrubs (mock orange, potentilla, spiraea, etc.) after the leaves drop off but don't trim your "**spring flowering**" shrubs (forsythia, quince, lilac, etc.) until after they bloom next spring. If you prune your "spring flowering" shrubs now, you will be removing most of the flower buds for next spring. Remember, don't prune roses this time of year, wait until April.

You can prune some shade trees this fall, after the leaves drop. Maples, birch, willows and many other shade trees respond well to fall pruning because they 'bleed sap' if you prune them in the spring. Don't prune fruit trees in the fall unless you absolutely have to; wait until early spring to prune fruit trees, just before they start to grow (or anytime after January). Wait to prune flowering trees until after they finish blooming in the spring so you can enjoy their blossoms. Be sure to give all of your hedges, topiary plants, and upright junipers one last trimming for the year. This final touch up can make a big difference how they will look all winter.



## Vegetable Garden Care

Watch the weather. If there is a threat of frost try to cover your plants with a frost blanket, or harvest your vegetables. Peppers, cucumbers, summer squash, tomatoes, and many vegetables are damaged even by a light frost. If you cover your plants at night you can often extend your harvest season by several weeks or even a month.

Tomatoes need an average daily temperature of 65F to ripen. If daytime temperatures stay below this, pick the fruits that have begun to change color from the dark green, immature stage, to the light green, or pink stage and bring them inside to finish ripening. The dark green, immature tomatoes will not ripen, they will just rot, but you can use these under-ripe tomatoes for pickling. To speed up the tomato ripening process you can put a ripe apple in a bag with some unripe tomatoes. Apples produce ethylene gas which helps tomatoes ripen more quickly.

Cure pumpkins and winter squash at temperatures between 70 and 80F for two weeks after harvest, then store them between 55 to 60F for winter use. Unfortunately summer squash does not store very well so you have to eat them fairly soon after picking. We have a more detailed guide available about storing vegetables. Please stop by and pick one up or download it from our website.

You can still plant Garlic this fall instead of waiting until spring. By planting garlic in the fall, you can harvest it early next summer instead of waiting until fall.

## Dig Summer Bulbs Now

The most common summer flowering bulbs are not really bulbs at all, they are tubers (begonias, dahlias), corms (gladiolus), and rhizomes (cannas).

Gladiolus, dahlias, begonias, and cannas are too tender to be left in the soil through the winter. After the leaves freeze and die, dig the 'bulbs' carefully. Wash each bulb thoroughly and dust it with **Bulb Dust** before storing. Divide your bulbs next spring as you take them out of winter storage and plant them.

Store your bulbs in wooden or cardboard boxes rather than in plastic bags so they can 'breathe'. Glads need to be kept dry in storage but begonias, dahlias and cannas should be kept moist during the winter. Peatmoss or vermiculite is good to store bulbs in; it helps to control both the moisture and the temperature. Check your bulbs during the winter. If the bulbs are too dry add a little water. Keep your bulbs cool but do not let them freeze. Store your bulbs between 35 to 40 degrees.

If your gladiolus did not bloom well, or, if the leaves turned brown before the blossoms finished blooming, soak the bulbs in hot water (112 to 120 degrees) mixed with **Safer's Insecticidal soap** for 30 minutes. This temperature will kill the **Gladiola Thrips**, a tiny insect that causes the flowers to die prematurely. Do not soak the bulbs in water over 120 degrees or you will kill the bulb.

## Peach Tree Care

The peach tree borer often takes the wrap for more than its fair share of trouble. Most of the time when you see sap on the trunk of a peach tree you automatically assume the tree has a borer. You are right, some of the time. Two other problems that can cause sap to ooze out of the trunk of stone fruits are **Bacterial**



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**Canker** and **Physical Injury**, both of which need to be treated differently than peach tree borer. Bacterial canker, sometimes known as Gummosis, produces sunken, dark lesions that allows sap to ooze from the affected area. This disease can kill your tree if you do not treat it. Remove the sap and scrub the entire area with **Copper Fungicide**. It is very important that you treat this problem this fall; don't wait until spring. If you see this problem during the spring or summer you should treat it every three or four weeks until the symptoms go away; but make sure it is not just damage from the peach tree borer!

Kids climbing peach trees or extra weight loads from ripening fruit can cause physical stress in the crotch of the tree. If enough stress is applied, some of the bark can separate and allow sap to ooze from the wound. It is not uncommon to see sap oozing from several crotches in peach trees after harvesting peaches or after a wind storm moves the heavy laden branches.

## Pine Tree Care

We recommend that you do not fertilize deciduous trees and shrubs in the fall, but if you have a pine tree or spruce tree that does not have good color or that appears to be under stress, go ahead and fertilize it with a good tree or shrub fertilizer that contains iron. Fall fertilizer does not stimulate new growth and harm pine trees the same way it can damage deciduous plants.



Be sure to water your pine trees occasionally during the fall, at least until the snow begins to fall. Evergreen plants need more water and a little more attention than deciduous plants.

Fall is the best time to move plants. Transplant deciduous plants when they are dormant; after they drop their leaves. Pine trees and shrubs can be transplanted and moved a little earlier than deciduous plants; but it is just a good rule of thumb to wait until leaves drop off surrounding deciduous plants first.

Do not be alarmed if your pine trees, yews, junipers, and arborvitae plants shed their innermost needles. This is natural each fall; the inside needles will turn yellow and then drop off the branch. More needles will turn yellow and drop off a plant after a stressful summer than after a normal summer, so, don't be too surprised if a lot of needles turn yellow and drop off your plants this fall.

## Bulbs Not Blooming?

**Unfortunately, there are numerous reasons why tulips and daffodils might not bloom!** Here's a check list for you to look at. See if anything fits your gardens.

- 1. Bulbs have not been 'fed' in a couple of years.** Fertilize both in the fall and again when leaves emerge in the spring.
- 2. Bulbs are planted in a 'too-shady' area.** Bulbs will bloom the first year after you buy them but they may not bloom again if they do not receive enough sunlight. Most bulbs need at least an half-day of sun to produce flowers.
- 3. Bulbs are in competition for food with other plants.** Planting bulbs under evergreen trees or with other fast-growing plants limits the food they can get. Result: weak plants and no flowers.
- 4. Bulbs are planted in an area with poor drainage.** Most bulbs love water but must have good drainage. They do not grow well where the water puddles. In wet conditions they are weakened by "basal rot" fungus, or other diseases, and may die. Diseased plants usually have light-green leaves, malformed

leaves and stems, and few, if any, flowers. Basal rot fungus is incurable so you need to dig and discard the bulbs.

**5. Plant leaves were cut too soon the previous year.** Bulbs replenish their food reserve for about six weeks after they bloom. The leaves should not be cut off until they start to lose their green color and turn yellow. This color change signifies the completion of the bulb rebuilding process.

**6. Bulbs may be stressed from transplanting.** Some varieties seem to skip a year of blooming if dug and replanted into a different environment.

**7. Some varieties grow well in one region but do not grow well in other regions.** Ranunculus, for example, grow well in warm climates but struggle in this area.

**8. The bulbs may have a virus.** Many plant viruses attack bulbs. Over time, infected plants lose their vigor. They produce smaller, weakened leaves and stems, stop blooming, and they finally die. Viruses are contagious to other bulbs and are incurable. Dig and throw away the infected bulbs.

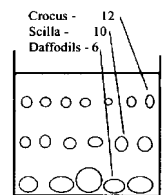
**9. Growing conditions the previous Spring may have been inhospitable so the rebuilding of the bulb was affected.** An early heat wave, or the lack of water may have shut down the bulb rebuilding process before it was complete.

**10. Bulbs may have been growing in the same spot for 'too many' years and need dividing.** Many bulbs normally divide every year or two. This results in clumps of bulbs that are competing for both food and space. Bulbs in compacted clumps tend to quit blooming. Dig the bulbs when the foliage has yellowed. Separate them into individual bulbs and replant them. You may replant immediately after dividing, or you may dry the bulbs in the shade, store them in mesh bags, and replant the bulbs in the Fall.

**11. Bulbs may be out to get you!** This is the case when you give them away in frustration and they bloom wildly for the new recipients.

## Layering Bulbs

Most beginning gardeners plant a few bulbs here and there throughout their yard. After the initial delight of the blooming flowers they are left to stare at bare spots as they wait for the foliage to die back. Another way to enjoy a longer season of flowers is to layer them. Plant bulbs in and around perennials; you get to enjoy a succession of flowers. The layering method also allows you to plant larger number of bulbs because the bulbs are stacked in the same hole.



- Dig a hole the size of a dinner plate, 10 to 12 inches across and 8 to 10 inches deep. You can also make larger clusters if you have the space.
- Mix well-rotted compost and bonemeal with the soil because you will not be able to add compost again for many years.
- Place 6 daffodils in the bottom of the hole with a single Crown Imperial Fritillaria in the center.
- Cover the bulbs with 2 inches of soil.
- Arrange 10 to 12 scilla sibirica or scilla campanulata and cover these bulbs with 2 more inches of soil.
- Scatter 12 or more crocus, snowdrops, or puschikinia about 2 inches below the soil line and cover them with soil. Don't worry, the lower bulbs will not have any trouble growing around the bulbs above them.
- Gently water the bulbs long enough so water can reach the bulbs clear down at the bottom of the hole.
- Try a different combination of bulbs in several areas throughout the yard.

**Try:** A mixture of 12 early, mid-season, and late tulips in the bottom of the hole with an *Allium Giganteum* in the center.

**Try:** Dutch Iris, Hyacinths or miniature daffodils in the middle layer.

**Try:** Anemone, Miniature Iris, or Grape hyacinths in the top layer of bulbs.

9. Use these layers of bulbs in and around your perennial flowers so you do not have to disturb them when planting your annual flowers. Hostas, Astilbes, and Coral bells all grow well among flower bulbs.

## Naturalizing Bulbs

Once you've nestled those tulip and daffodil bulbs in their proper holes and patted earth on top you can rest happily knowing their flowers will appear each spring for years to come. This dependable blooming habit - called naturalizing - occurs with other bulbs too.

**Puschkinia** start blooming very close to the earth in early spring, then as the weather gets warmer, they shoot up to their full height of 6 inches. The clusters of striped blue-and-white blossoms stay in flower for a month or more then quickly fade without leaving a mess. Plant them above early daffodils so the two varieties bloom together.

**Scilla sibirica** have small blue bells. They prefer shade and these bulbs will even thrive under other plants.

**Muscari - Grape Hyacinth** are perhaps the most vigorous of the spring blooming bulbs. The little blue flowers pop up in groundcover areas, flower gardens and even in the lawn.

**Galanthus** often called snowdrops, are the first of the bulbs that bloom in wintertime undeterred by onslaught of snow and ice. Their frosty white bells emerge close to the earth on short 3' to 4' stems. To enjoy their sweet scent bring a bunch inside where the warm air will release their perfume.

**Species Tulip** are some of the longest lived of all tulips. Species tulips are the ancestors of our hybrid tulips that we plant. They multiply rapidly and naturalize easily.

**Species Crocus** just like species tulips, are the best long-lived crocus to plant if you want them to naturalize. They are the ancestors of our hybrid crocus. They do not have as large of blossoms but they multiply more rapidly.

## Bulb Augers

Bulb augers help take the chore out of planting bulbs and flowers. Bulb augers can also make planting petunias and marigolds fun and easy next spring. Using a bulb auger you can plant up to 300 bulbs in one hour. We have two different styles of bulb augers available for rent or purchase. One style is for digging holes while standing up. The other style lets you dig your holes while you are on your knees. Both styles work great. The main problem with bulb augers is once you start you won't be able to stop. You may have to plant more flowers than you thought.



## Bulb Questions

### 1. Q. Why can't I plant tulip bulbs in the Spring?

A. Spring-flowering bulbs must be planted in the fall because they need a long cool period to stimulate the blooming process. Most tulips (and many other bulb varieties) need at least 6 to 8 weeks of cold weather before they will bloom properly.

### 2. Q. It's February and I forgot to plant my bulbs. Do I save them until next year?

A. **NO!** If the bulbs are plump and firm plant them now, even if you have to plant them into pots and put them outside in a shed. Bulbs are not seeds, they will not store and they will dry out and die if not planted. Chances are you may still get some results even if you plant them late.

### 3. Q. What should I do if the weather warms early and then gets cold again?

A. Nothing. Tulips and other bulbs are tough. They can usually take whatever mother nature dishes out. A short freeze won't do any lasting damage to young shoots and buds, though it may 'burn' blossoms that have already opened. An unseasonably warm spell may cause bulbs to bloom earlier than anticipated, but in most cases no damage will occur, unless you damage the plants by covering them with mulch or you break the plants by covering them with a blanket.

### 4. Q. How do I keep animals from digging up bulbs?

A. Some animals are not attracted to the bulb but they love the smell of **Bone Meal** you used to fertilize the bulbs. Fido is sure you just buried a bone for him to find and eat! If you have animals (dogs, raccoons, squirrels, etc.) that may be a problem you may want to fertilize your bulbs with a commercial fertilizer instead of an organic fertilizer to eliminate the odor factor.

The only sure way of keeping unwanted animals from digging up your bulbs is to physically cover them with a screen or wire mesh. Some gardeners will leave the wire mesh in the soil and let the bulbs grow up through it. Other gardeners have found that removing the screen or wire mesh after the ground has settled or just before the bulbs begin to grow in the spring is just as effective as leaving the wire mesh permanently. Most animals won't dig up the bulbs after the ground hardens.

### 5. Q. Should I fertilize bulbs?

A. If you are planting bulbs for only one year's bloom: **NO**. If you want the bulbs to perennialize and bloom for many years: **YES**. Fertilize your bulbs when you plant them with a slow release bulb food such as **Bone Meal** or **Dutch Bulb Food**. Fertilize each spring, just as the shoots are appearing, with a balanced Vegetable & Flower Fertilizer such as either **6-10-4** or **16-16-8**.

### 6. Q. What should I do after the flowers fade next spring?

A. Wait until the blossom fade and 'Dead Head' the plants. (Remove the flower head so it will not produce seeds.) Do not remove the leaves until the bulb has had a chance to reproduce the food reserves within the bulb (six to eight weeks). If you remove the leaves too soon your bulbs will not bloom very well, if at all, next spring. Fight the urge to trim back or contain the leaves during the die-back phase. Don't bunch, tie or cut off the leaves during this period. Dealing with the fading foliage is one of those things that lovers of spring bulbs must learn to deal with. The only management tip is to camouflage the leaves; plant other flowers around them so they are not as noticeable.

### 7. Q. When should I plant my bulbs?

A. While it is best to buy your bulbs when the best selection is available (September), it is not always good to plant them that soon. Wait until the ground temperature drops below 60 degrees F to plant bulbs (October). Be sure to plant your bulbs at least six weeks before the ground freezes hard, so the bulb has time to start rooting in the fall. The key is to plant in the fall to have blooms in the spring. Even if you forget and plant late, your bulbs will spring into action and try to start rooting. Bulbs are pre-programed to grow and will do their best no matter how late you plant them.

### 8. Q. Why should I plant bulbs in clusters?

A. Groups of flowers are more eye appealing than individual 'soldiers marching single file'. To create a greater color impact in the garden, plant clusters of the same color bulbs together in blocks. Try planting your bulbs in a triangular pattern in the garden with the point of the triangle towards the front of the garden to make the garden appear more full. Plant bulbs 4" to 8" apart within the clusters and plant your clusters 2' to 4' apart in the garden. Stop by and pick up a *Free Bulb Planting Guide* to give you more ideas about planting and growing tulips in your yard.

## Dividing Perennials

One of the joys of a perennial garden is watching the plants grow and fill the spaces allotted to them. However, perennial flowers can out grow their assigned areas quickly unless they are moved and divided periodically. Most perennial flowers do not know when to stop growing, you need to make that determination for them.



Dividing perennial flowers is not a bad thing for the plant. In fact, many plants are invigorated by dividing them regularly. Don't be afraid of breaking roots, stems, or plants as you divide them. This is a necessary evil when dealing with strong rooted plants. Don't be afraid of throwing away extra plants, or unwanted plants, or giving extra plants to neighbors. The hardy perennial flowers will take over and dominate the weaker varieties if you don't do some refereeing. Sometimes you may need to remove an entire plant.

Divide spring and summer blooming perennials in the fall, as soon as the temperatures begin to moderate. Divide fall blooming perennials either in the spring or after they finish blooming in the fall, if there is still several weeks of good weather before the ground freezes hard. Divide perennials as often as the plant overtakes its assigned area. You may need to divide your shasta daisy or coreopsis every two or three years. Phlox, Astilbe, and daylilies may only need to be divided every 5 to 6 years. Peonies only need to be divided every 10 to 15 years.

## Garden Soil

Your garden's soil condition is the most important part of gardening success. Without the proper soil conditions, gardening can be a chore for you, and your plants will just not respond and grow the way you want them to grow. Remember, **Garden Soil is not Dirt**. Dirt is the stuff you wash out of your clothes after working in the yard. Garden Soil is a complex mixture of minerals, air, water, organic matter, microbes, and other critters. Soil is full of life and deserves your attention. With good soil, gardening will be more fun. The soil will be easier to plant in, cultivate, and it will be easier to grow your plants. Perfect soil is hard to come by in most home gardens and may take a little extra effort to achieve. The best way to improve your garden soil is by adding **Organic Materials** every year, and the best time to apply **Organic Materials** is in the fall, not in the spring. Mix as much manure, compost, soil pep, or other organic materials (within reason) as you can afford. You will be amazed each spring how much better your soil is than it was the previous year. Many garden soils will take four, six, or even 10 years to completely change but you will notice an improvement each year. We have an excellent handout on soils and mulches. Please stop by and pick up your free copy, or download it from our website.



Two of the best mulches to add to your garden this fall are **Soil Pep** and **Nutri Mulch**. Nutri Mulch is a mulch composted from a mixture of turkey manure and wood shavings. **Soil Pep** is composted bark without manure both are available by the bag or by the truckload.

## Fall Sprays

Winter is almost here, but not quite. You may still have a few insect and disease problems you will need to spray this fall. If you have any of these problems in your yard stop by so we can tell you how to control them.

**Euonymus & Lilac Blight** - Spray lilacs and burning bushes that showed small, stunted, yellowish leaves this summer. Spray them with copper as soon as the leaves drop off this fall. Repeat the same spray just before the leaves emerge in the spring.

**Boxelder Bugs** - These pests are a nuisance all fall, winter and spring. They are not harmful to your home and they are hard to control. If you can kill them before they reach your house you will have much less trouble killing them. They are very difficult to control on or around the house. **Eight** is the best spray we have found for these pests. Spray the foundation every two or three weeks this fall.

**Slugs & Snails** - The best control for slugs & snails is using bait rather than spraying. **Persistence is the key**, don't quit trying to kill these pests until the ground is frozen and the pests have gone into hibernation for the winter.

**Spidermites** - Spray badly infected plants (Alberta Spruce, potentilla, roses, raspberry, etc.) with a **Dormant oil** as soon as the temperature will stay below 70 degrees. The oil puts a long lasting coat on the plants that smothers eggs. Repeat the spray in the spring just as the plants begin to grow.

**Aphids** - These little insects range in colors from clear to black and from green to red to yellow. Aphids begin to cluster on tree trunks and in shrubs during the fall. They suck as much sap from the plant as possible to prepare for winter. Aphids are particularly noticeable on apple trees and willow trees in the fall. Spray each plant thoroughly with **Dormant Oil Spray** to control these pests.

**Spiders** - Spray the outside of your house with either **Eight** or **Conquest**, especially around windows and doors to prevent these pests from entering your home. Once spiders are inside the house you can either use a **Spider Trap** or an indoor **Spider and Roach Spray** to try to keep them under control.

## Winter Plant Hardiness

Some plants are much more winter hardy than others. We sell many plants that thrive in Oregon without any winter care but will struggle and die if not properly protected in Utah. Many plants that are not supposed to survive in this area will grow and flourish if they receive the correct winter care. Some plants in one area of the yard may need much more protection than the exact same plant in another area of the same yard. Why are some plants able to survive cold winter temperatures and others do not?



Sometimes it isn't just the cold temperatures that cause the problems. Our native plants are acclimatized and synchronized to our local climate. They respond to the day length and temperature signals each fall to prepare for winter. If plants are brought in from other climates and do not have time to acclimatize to our growing conditions they may be damaged during the winter weather. They do not form the hardy dormant buds in time for the sub-zero weather.

Sometimes it is the fluctuations in temperature, water conditions, or the plant's current condition, that causes the injury. We live in a **FREEZE-THAW-FREEZE-THAW** area in which the weather conditions change frequently. The first step to protect your plants in the winter is to keep your plants healthy during the spring, summer and fall. A healthy plant will endure much more winter stress than a struggling plant can.

Most frost injury doesn't actually occur during the winter, it occurs in the late-fall and in the early-spring. Early frosts in the fall can injure plants that are not quite ready for winter. Keeping plants too wet or giving them too much fertilizer in the fall can prevent plants from getting ready for winter. Late frosts in the spring damage plants that think spring arrived a week or two earlier. A magnolia, for example, planted on the south side

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of a house enjoys the warmth and protection from the house and may start to bloom and leaf out earlier than it would have if it was planted on the east side of the same house. This early growing time may actually kill the tree while it would have been just fine in another location.

Few plants in containers can survive winter without some winter protection. Some pots may crack or break if left outside for the winter, exposing plant roots to the air. Most plants in pots that die in the winter die from the lack of water, not from the cold. You need to remember that all roots need water year round and if mother nature does not provide it with snowfall you will have to water them occasionally. A pot in a sunny spot will need water more often than a pot in the shade. Sometimes the best way to protect plants in pots during the winter is to move the pots inside a shed, to set the pots in a shady place right next to the house, or to actually bury the entire pot in the garden for the winter.

## Winter Tree Care

Bark splitting is a fairly common problem on many trees in this area. Bark splitting is often caused by environmental or physical factors. Newly planted trees, fruit trees, and thin barked trees (locust, redbud, kwanzan cherry) are especially prone to splitting bark. Bark splits are not always immediately fatal to the tree, but they can be an entry point for many disease organisms that will kill them over time.



Bark splitting is usually caused by large temperature changes between day and night during the late-fall and early-spring. The frost freezes water within the trunk causing a vertical split in the bark. Excessive fall growth is one major cause of this type of injury. Fertilizing trees late in the fall, or keeping trees too wet late in the fall may promote a late surge of growth that may actually harm the tree rather than benefit the tree. Nice warm November and December temperatures after a cold October may also create conditions that may cause the bark to split: the tree started to go dormant and then started to grow again.

The best way to prevent splitting bark is to fertilize trees in the early spring instead of the fall and keep trees moist until they drop their leaves and then stop watering them, except for the newly planted trees. You can also wrap the trunk of any susceptible trees (especially young trees) with tree wrap or paint the trunk with white paint.

If your trees already have a split in the bark, the best way to help the tree recover and repair the damage is to make sure the wound has clean, smooth edges. Use a sharp knife to remove all loose bark but do not make the wound worse than it is by removing healthy bark. Do not cover the wound with any type of paint or tar; leave the wound open. A healthy tree should create a callus over the edges quickly and the tree will eventually cover the split. An unhealthy tree will struggle and eventually die. It is better to remove the unhealthy tree and start over rather than trying to save it.

Sunscauld is another type of injury that can kill a tree during the winter. This injury is deadly to thin barked and newly planted trees. Sunscald is caused by the same conditions that cause bark splitting. Too much water, too much fertilizer, or warm weather in November and December can make the trees susceptible to sunburn during the winter. Sunlight reflects off the snow and 'burns' the bark (similar to a person that is ice fishing getting sunburned). The bark then freezes at night. These freeze - thaw

cycles can kill the bark and can slowly kill the tree. Sunscald can also be caused by severely pruning a tree; removing shade that many other branches were accustomed to.

Prevent sunscald by wrapping the trunk or by painting the trunk white. If you drive past a peach orchard during the winter you will notice all of the trunks have been painted white to prevent this type of injury.

## Plant Dehydration

Most winter injury is caused when the plant runs out of water (inside the plant) during the winter. Broad-leaf evergreens such as boxwood, holly, euonymus, and rhododendrons, continue to both use and lose water through their leaves during the winter. Daytime temperatures can be 60 to 70F which causes evergreen leaves to release water. If the ground is frozen and the plant's roots cannot replace this water loss, the leaves will turn brown and die. Southern or western exposures, or windy conditions, can aggravate this problem. A layer of mulch can help prevent this type of winter injury along with coating the leaves with an antidesiccant such as **Wilt Pruf**. Wilt Pruf is a wax that coats the leaves and prevents water loss through the leaf pores.



## Pond Care Tips

If you take a few minutes this fall to winterize your pond properly you can enjoy it again next spring. Stop feeding your fish when the water temperature drops below 50 degrees. Fish will survive the winter without food. Excess food in the pond will create bacteria that could kill your fish. Clean all the leaves and other organic materials that accumulate in the pond; to prevent a buildup of bacteria in the water. Remove any tender pond plants and set the winter hardy plants in the bottom of the pond for the winter, be sure to remove any dead leaves.



Do not let your pond's surface completely freeze. Oxygen must be able to get into the water and carbon dioxide must be able to escape. You can use a pond heater or run a small pump to keep the surface from freezing completely. Styrafoam blocks or rubber balls can also help prevent the entire surface from freezing. Remove the styrafoam or the ball in the morning and replace it in the evening. If the water surface should freeze solid do not break it with a hammer. The shock waves may kill the fish. Set a pan of boiling water on the ice so it can melt a hole in the ice.

If your pond is less than eighteen inches deep, the water will probably freeze solid and your fish will die no matter what you try. However, with proper care your pond can be fun and enjoyable for years to come.

## Changing Leaf Colors

The process of leaves changing color and falling off a tree is an actual growth process. The plant uses energy to complete the process. A healthy plant drops its leaves; a dead tree doesn't lose its leaves unless they are physically removed (wind, shaking).



During the growing season, leaves appear green because the plant is producing abundant quantities of chlorophyll. As the amount of daylight decreases in autumn, chlorophyll production slows down and then stops completely, enabling the carotenoids and anthocyanin pigments to appear. Moisture and

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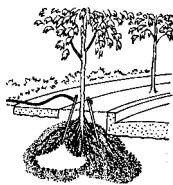
temperature also influence how fast the color change will occur and how brilliant the change will be. Colors are their brightest when warm fall days are accompanied with very cool nights (below 45 degrees but above freezing). An early fall, with adequate moisture conditions, stimulates brilliant red and purple color changes. The yellow and brown colors will always be brilliant no matter what the weather is but the reds and purples will vary from year to year. Watch the mountains, some years the colors are brilliant. Other years the colors seem to fade fast. The temperature and moisture conditions determines how long the colors stay vivid. The cooler and wetter the conditions are, the longer the colors will remain brilliant.

## Early Leaf Color

Each year we look forward to trees and shrubs turning color and standing out in the yard with their impressive display of colorful leaves. However, if the plant changes color too early it could be a warning sign that the plant is under unusual stress. A closer look at the plant might be warranted, especially if your plant started changing colors in August or early-September.

Weather conditions are a big factor that contributes to stress in plants. This past summer was one of the hottest and driest summers on record and has certainly stressed out many trees and shrubs, especially those near streets, driveways and parking lots. Leaf scorch is very noticeable this fall along with some trees turning color prematurely. Make sure to deep water trees at least once a month until winter, to help these trees overcome their stress and survive the winter.

Early fall color can also be caused by root or trunk problems. Root problems can include; cultivating too close to the plant, covering the drip line with too much extra soil, too much fertilizer or other chemicals in the soil, and the most common problem - too much or too little water. Trunk problems can include damage from lawnmowers or string trimmers, mouse or gopher



damage, splitting bark from previous injuries, a string or wire tied around the trunk to hold it up straight, or even a string used to hold the burlap on the rootball when it was first planted.

Plant diseases also cause stress to plants that can make them turn color prematurely. A common problem for both burning bush and lilac plants is a blight disease. Many of these plants are infected by this disease and may actually die from it if they are not treated. The best control for blight diseases is to spray the trunk and branches of both the infected and non-infected plants with **Copper Fungicide** as soon as 90% of the leaves have dropped off the plant. Spray the plant again with copper just before the leaves emerge in the spring. Fertilize the plants heavily each spring before they start to grow and fertilize the stressed out plants every three to four weeks all summer with **Schultz All Purpose Plant Food**.

## Winter Care Of Houseplants

Just as we slow down as the days shorten, so do house plants. In order to keep your house plants happy and healthy through the Fall and Winter, give your houseplants a little extra attention, some TLC. Here are a few pointers to keep in mind.



When bringing plants inside after spending the summer on the porch or patio, it's good practice to spray your plants with an all-purpose insecticide, such as **Schultz Houseplant and Garden Insect Spray**. It is best to spray plants at least twice - at one week intervals, to make sure you have killed all of your unwanted guests. If you find you have insects crawling out of the soil, sprinkle a little **Systemic Insecticide Granules** on top of the soil and that should take care of those creepy crawlers.

Try to place your plants in light conditions similar to those outside. They will go through a short acclimation period because the inside of your home is much darker than the outside. Don't place a plant that has been in the direct sunlight into a dark corner. Don't be afraid to prune your plants. Houseplants

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# The Gardening Newsletter

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like the hibiscus, ivy, philodendrons, and bougainvilleas can really take quite a haircut! Pruning also allows your blooming plants to take a short rest after their profuse blooming through the summer.

Remember that the water and fertilizer requirements for your plants will be reduced through the winter and you will have to readjust your schedule. A plant that needed watering once a week outside may need only to be watered once every two weeks when inside. When winter really sets in and you turn your furnace on, it will affect the amount of water your plant requires; dryer, warmer air means the plant will dry out more quickly. One of the biggest "killers" of house plants is over-watering. While you should check your plants once a week, they won't necessarily need water every week. To increase the humidity for your plant, group them together or place them on trays with gravel and water. Misting is helpful but the effects are short term. Turning on a humidifier, especially if you have ferns, is most beneficial. Fertilize your plants once a month during the winter with **Schultz Liquid Plant Food** instead of every two weeks like you fertilized them during the summer.

Get in the habit of turning your plants weekly (rotate the pot half a turn) to prevent them from becoming one-sided or leaning toward the light. Ficus trees are notorious for being lush and full on one side and flat and skimpy on the other if they are not rotated.

Hopefully, these tips will help your house plants thrive this winter and help to convince you that you too can be a successful indoor gardener.



## Predator Urines

In the wild, the relationship between predator and prey defines the daily routine of every animal alive. The predator stalks its prey to satisfy its most basic need for food and the prey seeks to avoid the predator at all costs to ensure its own survival. It is the law of the wild. In this life and death game of hide and seek, the scent of urine is often the only warning a prey has that a predator is nearby. This scent of predator urine triggers a primal reaction in the prey. For centuries hunters have used animal urines to manipulate the movement of prey in such a way as to improve their chances for hunting success. Based upon these traditional uses, the **'Leg Up Company'** has developed 100% Predator Urines as deception scents to deceive animals into believing a predator is very close by. These urines effectively camouflage human scent and deceive prey by creating the illusion that the predator is active in the immediate area. Wild animals instinctively react to the perceived threat of danger. By using the urine to mark a perimeter like these predators do in the wild, you are able to replicate the predator/prey response in each animal.

We have five predator urines available; **Wolf, Coyote, Bobcat, Mountain Lion, and Fox**. Each urine repels different types of animals so stop by and pick up a handout that lists each urine and the animals it repels. Simply place dispensers in several areas in your yard. The scent lasts about three to four weeks. We have had some good results with these repellents. We had a cat problem around our burglar alarm sensors. After dispensing some Fox Urine to the area the cats left and have not returned.

