

Note that the information in our monthly tips is intended for gardening in the Bountiful, UT area and may not be accurate for different climates.

November Gardening

Ave High 50° F
Ave Low 29° F
Ave Moisture 1.22"

Each year is different, let the weather be your guide. Use this gardening guide as a simple reminder as to what needs to be done in your garden this month.

November sees the last days of Autumn. Most of the leaves are down, most of the perennials and roses have finished blooming. The chilly days and the cold nights are common. Hopefully rainy or snowy days are plentiful. Flurries to full-fledged snowstorms often arrive in November. Nature has a way of slowly putting things to rest for a long winter nap.



It's cold, it's wet and it's nasty out, and the last thing on your mind is gardening. It's really hard to do much of anything outdoors, but there are a few tasks and chores which you could do on a day when the weather is warm and sunny.

Take advantage of some the few balmy days that November offers to set up your outdoor Christmas display. You will avoid the unpleasant task of putting up lights and holiday displays during the blustery and cold days of December.

An experienced gardener will take advantage of those same balmy days to finish this season's tasks of winterizing the garden and finishing other fall gardening projects.

Roses

✓ Don't cut roses back severely now – do that kind of pruning next spring. Prune roses, after they completely stop growing, just enough to prevent snow damage during the winter.

✓ After a hard frost, hill up tender plants with leaves, mulch, or soil for winter protection, if necessary. Wait until the ground freezes to add the mulch or leaves. Using rose collars or tomato cages helps prevent the leaves from blowing away.

✓ Mound five to six inches of soil around the bases of your hydrangeas and roses. Use soil from other parts of the garden. Don't damage the roots by digging around the base of the plants.

✓ Make sure that the canes of your climbing roses and other vining plants are securely fastened to their supports. Winter winds can damage unprotected plants. Don't tie them so tightly that the string or twist-tie damages the stems.

Flowers

✓ Cut Chrysanthemum stems to 2-3 inches from the soil once they have begun to die back. You can continue to transplant your perennials throughout the fall and winter, as long as they remain dormant.



✓ Tulip bulbs may still be planted in the early part of November - the sooner the better now. Try planting some in pots for forcing to bloom during the winter. Put the pots in a shed, or next to the house to provide cold temperatures, but still give them some protection.



✓ Tender bulbs should be dug up and stored in a cool, dark area.

✓ Use small stakes or markers where you've planted bulbs or late starting spring plants in the perennial garden, to avoid disturbing them when you begin spring soil preparation.

✓ Remove frost-killed annuals. Roto-till annual flower beds and add organic matter to improve soil. Use Bumper Crop, Manure, Homemade Compost or as many leaves from the neighborhood as possible.

✓ Depending on your yard, you can either cut back perennial stalks to 4 to 6 inches or leave them until spring.

✓ Apply mulch around tender plants. Wait until the ground freezes before adding mulch. If the ground is too warm, the plants will not completely harden off for the winter.

✓ Don't trim ornamental grasses. They add variety to the yard, and Birds love them during the winter.

Trees & Shrubs

✓ Be sure that your tender plants are protected from extreme frost. Mulching with bark, soil pep or straw will help create a blanket of protection over the root system.

✓ Now is a good time to transplant trees and shrubs. At this time of the year, most plants are dormant. They can be safely dug and replanted. The key to transplanting is to dig a large root ball (get as much of the root system as is possible). Equally important, is getting the plant back into the soil as quickly as possible, to keep the roots from drying out. Fertilize them with Dr. Earth Starter fertilizer to help the roots get a good jump on spring. Large trees or shrubs should be staked to protect them from wind whipping during winter storms. Keep them staked until the roots have a chance to develop and anchor themselves securely.

✓ As soon as the leaves fall from fruit trees, shade or flowering trees, raspberries and other deciduous plants, they can be sprayed with



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a dormant spray. This spray helps control over-wintering insects and diseases. Peach trees need a fungicide to control coryneum blight, while apple trees may benefit from an insecticide to control the woolly apple aphid. Apply according to label instructions



√ Prune your hedges one last time to shape them for winter.

√ Water new planted shrubs if the weather is warm and dry. Even older plants and trees need to be kept a little moist until the ground starts to freeze solid. Check your perennial flower gardens and add a little water if the soil is dry.

√ Spray Wilt Prufe on all broadleaf evergreens to help prevent dehydration during the cold winter weather. Spray when the temperature is above 40 F. and the spray has time to dry before it freezes.

Vegetables & Fruits

√ Cut the tops off your asparagus plants, and add a little compost to the bed.

√ Cover strawberries two inches deep with leaves or straw.

√ Secure your raspberry canes to stakes to protect them from wind whipping. Remove any canes that are more than 2 years old. Trim the younger canes just enough so the snow will not break them.

√ Sort apples in storage and remove spoiled fruit.

√ Clean and remove fallen fruit from around trees to reduce insects and disease next year. Removing the fruit also helps to reduce the temptation for any browsing deer or animals looking for a bite to eat.

Houseplants

√ Furnaces dries the air out in your home considerably. Help your house plants survive by misting them often, or by placing the pots on a saucer filled with pebbles and water, to give extra humidity and moisture.

√ Pot up some spring flowering bulbs for indoor color during the winter. Store the pots in a cool, dark place for about 8 to 12 weeks. When new growth emerges from the soil, move them to a bright window and watch them bloom.



√ Continue to watch for insect or

disease damage and take the necessary steps to control the problem.

√ Amaryllis - The size of your bulb will determine how many flowers it should produce. 26cm bulbs generally have one or two flower stalks with 3 to 5 blossoms on each stalk. 34 cm bulbs generally have two or three flower stalks with 3 to 5 blossoms on each stalk. 40 cm bulbs generally have two to five flower stalks with 3 to 5 blossoms on each stalk.

√ Paperwhites - Paperwhite bulbs don't need a cold treatment to bloom. Just plant them in a pot with gravel. Add water just to the base of the bulb, do not let the bulbs sit in water or they will rot. Put the bulbs in a cool area (35 to 50 F) until the shoots begin to grow. Once the shoots are 2" tall, move them into an area to watch them grow and bloom. Paperwhite stems get tall, be sure to support them as they grow.



Miscellaneous

√ Feed the birds which may not be able to find food due to snow on the ground. Their natural food sources have pretty much dried up by this time of the year.

√ Stop feeding pond fish when the water temperature drops below 50 degrees F.

√ Drain your hoses and put them away so they don't freeze and burst.

√ Continue to watch for insect, slug and snail, or disease damage throughout the garden, and take the necessary steps to control the problem.

√ Clean and oil your garden tools for winter storage. Place some sand and some oil in a large bucket, then slide your garden tools in and out of the sand. This will do an excellent job of cleaning them, as well as applying a light coat of oil to prevent rusting.

√ Protect ornamental and fruit trees and young plants from deer damage by wrapping or enclosing them in a wire screen.

√ Start a compost pile with fall leaves. Turn compost pile regularly to hasten breakdown.

√ Winter mulch: Once the ground freezes, apply a layer of winter mulch to perennial beds – don't do this too early or you'll provide winter shelter for rodents.

√ Weeding: Do one last weeding



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and discard any weeds that have seeds on them in the garbage instead of the compost. You don't want those pesky seeds sprouting in your garden later.



✓ Good winter care starts with thorough watering in the fall. When the garden season draws to a close, it is tempting to just forget about your plants. However you should continue to water all woody plants - especially newly planted trees and shrubs, and all evergreens in the fall. Be extra watchful for plants under decks, balconies or large trees which do not receive the natural moisture. You may need to water them, or shovel snow on them, during the winter to keep them moist.

✓ Water them well until the ground freezes, and make sure you water adequately through a dry fall. These plants will need the equivalent of one inch of rain per week. (In a wet fall, you can relax.)

✓ Evergreens and broadleaf evergreens don't lose their leaves, so they need a good supply of moisture going into winter because they continue to transpire (give off water vapor) through the cold months.

✓ Most winter damage to evergreens doesn't actually come from cold, but from the drying effects of late winter sun and wind. With the soil frozen hard, plant roots can't take up water to make up for moisture losses from transpiration and, as a result, dehydration can cause browning or burning of foliage. Spray plants with an anti-desiccant to prevent this type of winter injury.

✓ Covering garden pools with bird netting will prevent leaves from fouling the water. Oxygen depletion from rotting organic matter can cause winter kill of pond fish.



✓ A dilute whitewash made from equal parts interior white latex paint and water applied to the trunks of young fruit trees will prevent winter sunscald injury.



✓ To learn more about Deer Proofing your yard, please read our [*Animal Repellant Handout*](#), or download a copy of [*Minimizing Deer Damage*](#) from the Utah division of Wildlife Resources.

<http://wildlife.utah.gov/habitat/deer-browse.php>



✓ Start planning your garden now for next year.

Lawn

✓ If you haven't already applied a fall or winter type of lawn fertilizer, now is the time to do it. This encourages good root development and helps improve the color of the lawn.



✓ Give your lawn a good raking to lift away accumulations of debris. Keep leaves raked from the lawn. They can be composted for use in the garden next spring.

✓ When you have finished your last mowing of the year, make sure that your lawnmower is properly stored. Run it until it is out of fuel. Old gas can turn to varnish, and damage the carburetor or the engine. If fuel is to remain in any power equipment, add fuel stabilizer to the gasoline.

✓ Continue to mow into the fall at 1 1/2 to 2 inches. Cut the lawn shorter the last time you mow for the year to help prevent snowmold. After you are finished, why not get your mower serviced and its blade sharpened so it will be ready for spring?

✓ If snowmold has been a problem in previous years, apply a fungicide just before the first snowfall to help prevent it. You can also remove the snow, or make it melt faster, by spreading humate or fireplace ashes in the early spring.

Wild Bird

✓ What is the best location for my feeders?

Ideally a sheltered southeastern exposure. Birds like to feed in the sun and out of the wind. They also prefer not to have any obstructions over their feeding area so as to be able to see an attacking predator.

✓ Should I feed all year round and why?

Yes. As with the fall and winter, spring and summer are also important times of the year to feed the birds. Spring time feeding provides the supplemental nourishment birds need to recover from migration. Summertime feeding helps reduce the stress of nesting at a time when natural seed supplies are at their lowest.

✓ Should I have more than one feeder in my yard?

A greater variety of feeders and seed will attract a greater variety of birds.

