



GARDEN CLEAN UP - FALL

Facelifts to your garden, soil conditioning and a thorough clean- up, if completed successfully in Autumn, will reward you with results next Spring. Take advantage of those cool, crisp days to work in your garden.

Autumn is an excellent time to take corrective action in the garden. If cutting or filling is necessary, do it now so that the soil has a chance to resettle by next Spring. But, be careful to remove any bulbs, perennials and shrubs before such a facelift. The advancement of heavy shade or soil-born diseases into your vegetable garden over the course of the summer may require you to relocate the garden.

Whether or not you have planned a major overhaul to your garden, there are a few important steps to observe this Fall. Gardeners should be aware that a careless garden clean-up might lead to an unhealthy yard next Spring. Many disease and insect organisms are not capable of surviving the winter if their host plant is destroyed. The removal of all plant debris as crops are finished or flowers are spent will help to eliminate many of the overwintering insects. Vegetation may be removed to the compost bin and shredded before added to the compost bin to take full advantage of bacterial action. Garden Lime, Compost activator, blood meal, bone meal, and super phosphate will aid in speeding up the composting process. .

Clean all containers and tools in a solution of one part bleach to 10 parts water and store them for the winter. Store all sprinklers, and watering accessories indoors to avoid frost damage.

Autumn is also a good time to work in the necessary soil conditioners to improve the structure and texture of the soil. You may adjust a soil, which is too acid by applying limestone at a rate of 4-5 lbs. maximum per 100 square feet. A soil with a high content of clay will benefit from the addition of 3" of peat moss, co-co bean shells, or manure applied to the soil surface and worked into a spade's depth. Turning over the soil in the Fall will improve the soil structure by breaking up compacted particles and will also disrupt any hibernating insects.

You might also like to see our Fall care sheets on Bulbs for Fall plantings Bulbs, Fall Lawn Care, Drying Flowers and Pruning.

SEE YOU IN THE SPRING!!!!