

LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE NOVEMBER TIPS

Plant Tips

It is time to do some clean-up before the cold weather comes. If you are able, cut down the stalks of spent perennials. After a hard frost kills your annuals, cut off the tops leaving the roots in the soil to decompose and add organic matter to the soil. If you have cellar windows, you need to clean out the debris to allow proper drainage. It is still time to plant daffodil bulbs while the soil is not frozen. Dig a hole 4-5 inches deep, add some bulb food, mix into the soil and plant the bulb pointed end up, backfill with soil. Plant bulbs in 3 or 5 groupings. Squirrels and deer seem to avoid daffodils.

If you plan to bring plants back into the house, use an Insecticidal soap to rid the plants of insects. If you can't move big pots indoors to protect them from frost cracks, empty out the soil, turn the pots over the emptied soil.

Drain and store hoses. Turn off outdoor faucets.

After the first hard freeze, protect roses, coral bells, and hydrangeas from dehydration with a layer of mulch mounded around the base of each plant. This layer of mulch has to be removed next year in the early spring, before new growth starts. Another form of winter protection is the use of an anti-desiccant especially on rhododendrons, azaleas, hollies and evergreen plants. If your plants are in a high winter wind area, you can put up a burlap wind break around them. Attach the burlap with staples to wooden stakes that you secure in the soil around the plants. Leave rose stems 12 – 15" long. Prune roses in the spring.

November is a good time to clean, sharpen and oil your gardening tools. Add some vegetable oil to a small bucket of sand and mix before inserting your cleaned shovel, hoe and rake.

Garden Tips

While the garden plot soil is still workable, plant garlic and shallots for harvesting next August. Also prepare some area in the plot in order to plant peas around St. Patrick's Day. If you have a rhubarb plant, sprinkle some slow release fertilizer around the plant. Keep a list of which vegetable varieties did well this year, and sketch where you planted this year's vegetables so that you can rotate your plants next year.