



How To Prep Your Garden For Winter

Here are Hanson's Garden Village's tips for winterizing your outdoors:

Lawns: We recommend cutting your turf grass down to 2.5 inches in length to minimize vole problems over winter. Also we recommend that you use a Winterizer fertilizer on your lawn to help build the root system and hardiness of the grass.

Vegetable and Annual Beds: Pull out any old plants and remove any weeds from the beds. This will reduce the carry-over of any insects or diseases. If you are comfortable with the composting process and the plants are not diseased, feel free to compost the organic material. If the plants are diseased or you are not sure, dispose of them in another way.

Downy Mildew in bedding Impatiens presented itself more commonly among our customers this summer due to the weather conditions and easy spreading of the disease. If you felt like your bedding Impatiens did not look as good as years past, or died out completely, please educate yourself on Downy Mildew by clicking [here!](#) You may need to try a different shade plant in your gardens next spring! If you haven't seen any symptoms we recommend continuing to use bedding Impatiens plants, as they offer some of the most beautiful colors for the shadier garden.

If you are attempting to winter over any outdoor annuals that were in pots or containers, follow these general steps that should work for most annuals:

1. Spray the plant for any diseases or clean it using insecticidal soap to prevent carrying in outdoor diseases or bugs to your indoor houseplants and keep the plant as separate from your indoor plants as possible
2. Cut it half way back
3. Place it in a warm, sunny location
4. Keep it lightly watered, but be careful to not over water!
5. Do not fertilize it until February
6. Once February comes, you can use a fertilizer to jump start it out of any dormant phase it may be in

Perennial Beds: After the perennial plant's leaves turn yellow and start to decline with the cooler temperatures, it is time to cut them back! They can be cut back within an inch or two of the ground. Dispose of the cuttings as they can harbor diseases that could survive the winter and

return to plants in the spring. If you have newly planted perennials, you can mulch heavier around those plants (2-4 inches), but you must remove that mulch as soon as you can in the spring to prevent the plant from rotting out. Good mulches or covers are bark mulch, clean straw or evergreen boughs. Snow cover, as well as planting all potted perennials into the ground, is a good thing to keep the plant's roots insulated and not fluctuating in temperatures.

Trees and Shrubs: The number one task we recommend for trees is to put a tree wrap around the base of the trunk to prevent animal girdling. You won't be able to fix the tree in the spring from a mouse stripping the bark and many times this can lead to the tree dying, so prevention is key. We sell easily put on and removed plastic tree wraps for \$2 in the store. Burning Bushes especially need a wire wrap around their trunks to prevent rabbit girdling.

Fertilization can happen in either the fall or the spring, depending on when you have timed it in the past. We recommend fertilizer spikes for fall fertilizing.

Make sure to give your trees and shrubs (evergreens especially) a good drink of water and keep the ground wet near the plants before freeze sets in completely. This helps the roots keep in the moisture needed to survive the winter.

Many people had some ugly, brown evergreens this year after the harsh winter burn they incurred last winter. Wrapping your evergreens, many times, causes just as many problems as keeping them exposed and so we do not recommend wrapping your evergreens for the winter.

Many trees and shrubs can be pruned in the fall. Here are a few common ones and their pruning needs:

Potentilla and Spirea: Cut down the shrubs to half way

Annabelle Hydrangea: Cut down to 6" above the ground

Woody Hydrangeas: Lightly trim

Fruit Trees: Wait until there is snow on the ground to do any pruning

Roses: We recommend providing some insulation for more tender roses. Discourage late-season growth by ending fertilization in late July, not pruning heavily in late summer or fall and stop deadheading spent blooms in September. Make sure you continue good watering practices throughout the fall and prevent any diseases or insect damages. The goal of protection isn't to keep the frost out, but to keep it in and to prevent extreme temperature variations. The best insulator is soil. Begin to mound up soil around the crowns of your tender rose bushes in mid to late September. Gradually increase the mound to a foot or so for most average sized garden roses. After the soil has frozen hard, mulch well with leaves, boughs, hay or straw to keep frost in (in the spring, carefully wash the soil back with water and prune after buds swell). The only

fall pruning to do is removing any tall canes. Do this after all growth has ceased to prevent wind damage.

DO NOT USE ROSE CONES! In the early spring they accumulate too much heat and humidity on warm days and will cause molding. They also create perfect mouse nests.

Another method of protection is the "Minnesota Tip Method." Carefully bend the canes down to the ground, mound with soil and mulch. Roots on one side of the plant may be loosened to aid in bending the plant over. Rat poison can be used in the mulch to protect the plant from any animal damage. On the first warm days of spring, begin to slowly remove mounded mulch so heat doesn't build up and mold develops.

We hope you have success in protecting your plants this winter!