



FALL GARDEN CLEAN UP CHECKLIST

- ✓ Harvest your above-ground fruits & vegetables.
- ✓ Clean garden beds of fallen fruit & dead/diseased plant material. Cut down annuals. You can plant more next year. Dispose of diseased material in the trash. Do not compost.
- ✓ Dig up, dry & store summer blooming bulbs. Plant some spring blooming bulbs before the first frost.
- ✓ Trim/prune some perennials, i.e. Peonies, Hostas, Irises. Wait until spring for others, i.e. Lavender, Lilacs, Azaleas. Research appropriate pruning season for your garden plants and shrubs.
- ✓ Retain some of your perennial foliage for overwintering wildlife and beneficial insects.
- ✓ Lawns & Leaves – Keep grass mowed as long as it is growing. Mow grass & leaves together and leave on the surface for lawn compost.
- ✓ Pull all your weeds, now! Stop them while conditions for growth are difficult and before it rains.
- ✓ Many herbs can winter in place. Dig up & pot up mint & basil and bring them indoors.
- ✓ Bring houseplants indoors. Spray first with an insecticidal soap. Quarantine them for 2 weeks.
- ✓ Inspect your trees & shrubs. Remove broken limbs and dead wood. Wait until they are dormant for actual pruning.
- ✓ Add compost to your garden soil in the fall to prepare for spring planting. Make your own or use store-bought in bags/bulk, seasoned animal manure or worm castings.
- ✓ Mulch most of your uncovered soil with leaves, grass clippings, straw or wood chips, 4-6 inches deep.
- ✓ Plant cover crops in your beds. They are a great way to maintain & improve soil health throughout the winter.
- ✓ Empty and clean pots & containers. Store inside if possible, especially clay pots. If not, flip them upside down to prevent water collection.
- ✓ Drain and store hoses. Wash soil off shovels, etc. Dry & store.
- ✓ Clean cutting tools, sharpen, oil & store.

- ✓ Walk around your garden and take some notes to help with future planning. Record in a journal or video with your phone.

RESOURCES for “Putting Your Garden to Bed”

- * The California Garden Web <http://cagardenweb.ucanr.edu>
- * UC IPM, Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program <http://ipm.ucanr.edu>
- * UCCE Master Gardeners of Santa Clara County <http://mgsantaclara.ucanr.edu>
- * “Cover Cropping in the Home Gardens” <http://ucce.ucdavis.edu/files/filelibrary/5842/25997.pdf>
- * Groworganic.com Peaceful Valley Farm *How to videos*
- * Las Pilitas Nursery for information about various plants <http://www.laspilitas.com>
- * UCCE Master Gardeners of Napa County <http://napamg.ucanr.edu>
- * Get Growing with Farmer Fred <http://farmerfred.com>
- * Penn State Extension Philadelphia Master Gardeners <https://philadelphiacountymastergardeners>
- * Sunset Western Garden Book “The Ultimate Gardening Guide”
- * Pruning California Native Plants - UCCE Master Gardeners of Marin Co.
http://marinmg.ucanr.edu/Manage_A_Garden/Native_Plants_574/Pruning_California_Native_Plants

- * Perennial Alert – Trimming and Deadheading Pay Off by Vera Strader
https://ucanr.edu/sites/Tuolumne_County_Master_Gardeners/files/220858.pdf

- * UCCE Small Farms & Urban Agriculture - Manure and Compost Management and Food Safety Risks
https://ucanr.edu/sites/Small_Farms_/Food_Safety/Manure_and_Compost_Management_and_Food_Safety_Risks/

- * Pruning Small Trees & Shrubs
http://ceventura.ucanr.edu/Environmental_Horticulture/Landscape/Pruning/

- * Composting Basics UCCE Master Gardeners of Sonoma Co.
http://sonomamg.ucanr.edu/Composting/Composting_Basics/

- * Composting UCCE Master Gardeners of Sacramento Co.
<http://sacmg.ucanr.edu/Composting/>

- * Mulches
<http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/GARDEN/ENVIRON/mulches.html>

- * Mulch – A Gardener’s Best Friend
http://sonomamg.ucanr.edu/Sonoma_Gardener_Articles/Mulch--a_Gardeners_Best_Friend/