



RHS Fall Clean-up Regina Horticultural Society

& Winter Preparation

Wet your plants

- Continue watering trees and shrubs until the ground freezes.
- Drain garden and irrigation hoses.

Divide and conquer

- The ideal time to divide some perennials is in late summer to early fall, after they are done blooming for the season.
- Divide spring-blooming plants such as iris, lillies, brunnera, dianthus, lamium, and primrose, and late-bloomers like black-eyed Susans, geraniums, daylilies, hostas, coneflowers, and yarrows.
- Don't forget to dig up tender bulbs like dahlia, canna lilies and gladiola. Wrap them in moist material and store in a cool, dark space.

Cutting back

- Cut back perennials and remove diseased parts/plants (do not compost diseased material)
- Remove dead annuals, vegetable plants and fallen fruit.

* *Tip: Evergreen perennials should not be cut back in the fall. See "Still Standing" below.*

Still standing

- Evergreen perennials do not require cutting back, including wall cress (Arabis), rock cress (Aubrieta), basket-of-gold (Aurinia), pinks (Dianthus), candytuft (Iberis), and moss phlox (Phlox subulata). They may suffer from a few brown tips over the winter, but no major pruning should be done until after they finish blooming in the spring/summer.
- Ornamental grasses like Karl Foerster feather reed grass, Siberian iris, mullein seed heads, and the flowering stems of tall sedums can withstand winter snowfall and help keep the winter landscape in your yard interesting.

For the birds

- Consider leaving some plant stalks standing for winter interest and bird feed. Purple coneflower, black-eyed Susans, sunflowers, and other plants with seeds and berries will feed the birds throughout the coldest months.

There is still thyme

- Collect and dry herbs for winter use. Cut stems when the plant is still green and dry in a hanging mesh bag or on a surface that allows for good air circulation.
- When fully dry and crumbly, remove leaves from stems and package in your preferred containers.

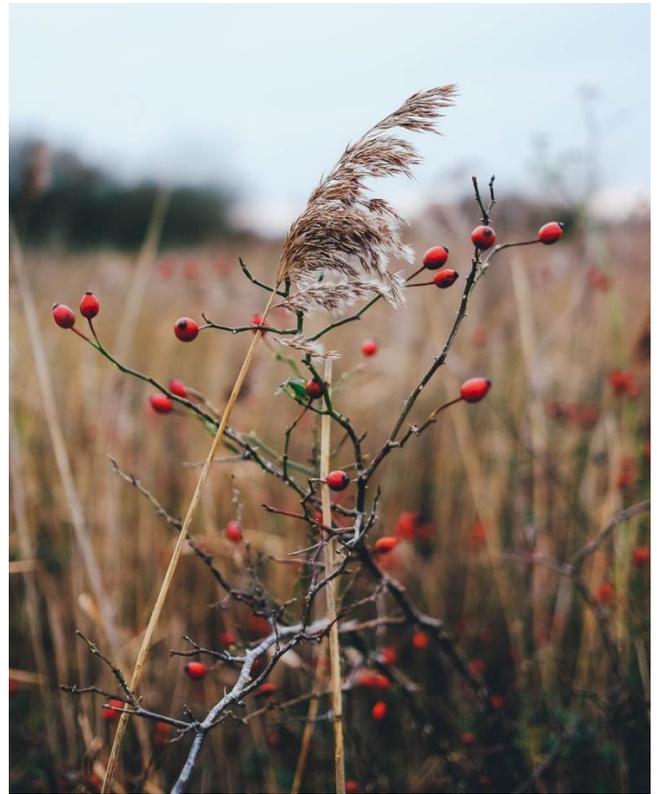
Composting is so hot right now

- Add compost and/or manure to garden beds and work into the surface layer of soil.

** Tip: Save a few bags of leaves for next year. Dry materials for the compost bin are hard to find in the spring.*

Thanks so mulch

- Add mulch to your garden beds and around tender perennials to retain soil moisture, suppress weeds, and regulate soil temperature.



Out on a limb

- Prune elm trees after the provincial pruning ban is lifted (from September 1 to March 31) to reduce the spread of Dutch Elm Disease.
- Wait until late fall or winter to prune shrubs and bushes when the plants are dormant. Pruning them too early stimulates new growth just when the plants are trying to go dormant, which can severely weaken plants.
- For early spring bloomers like lilacs and spireas, prune just after they finish blooming in the spring/summer.



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The Regina Horticultural Society is a charitable, non-profit membership organization founded in 1928. We offer monthly educational events and provide a place where all garden enthusiasts can pursue their horticultural interests.