

how to Prep Your Garden for fall

bird-friendly



Audubon

- 1. Leave the leaves!** *ground-foraging birds need them and they're nature's perfect mulch*
- 2. Leave flower heads intact!** *the heads contain seeds (bird food) and leftovers will re-seed*
- 3. Label your perennials.** *use waterproof stakes so you know what's what come spring*

container gardens

- ☑ Use containers that won't crack, such as metal, thick plastic, stone, concrete, and wood.
- ☑ Water between rains, only when the soil feels dry.
- ☑ Take stock of what's missing. Evergreens? Berries? Fall color? And add them to your spring shopping list. Or better yet, plant them now! Fall is the best time to plant trees, shrubs, and bulbs.

in the ground

- ☑ Plant now for more robust blooms in spring! Fall is the best time to plant trees, shrubs, and bulbs.
- ☑ Water new shrubs and trees through the first year.
- ☑ If you plan to replace more turf in spring, cover the area with a thick layer of mulch now.

happy fall!

how to Prep Your Garden for winter

bird-friendly



Audubon

1. No need to overwater.

little to no water is needed in winter

2. Leave flower heads intact!

the heads contain valuable seeds (bird food in the winter) and leftovers will reseed plants in spring

container plants

- ☑ Use containers that won't crack - metal, thick plastic, stone, concrete, wood. Do not leave clay and ceramic outside.
- ☑ Cluster pots together on north or east side of home.
- ☑ For added insulation, mulch between pots with leaves. Snow also acts as a good insulator.
- ☑ If possible, wrap pots with heavy plastic, bubble wrap, fabric, burlap, old blankets, or insert pot into a larger pot.
- ☑ Tent with plastic at night, not during the day.
- ☑ Don't bring plants inside. They're native and need to be outside year round!

plants in the ground

- ☑ Weed beds as needed.
- ☑ Slow down watering and then as it gets colder, only water on warm days.
- ☑ Mulch with leaves, branches from Christmas trees, woodchips, or mulch to prevent heaving when ground freezes.
- ☑ Prune woody shrubs and trees as needed.
- ☑ On nearby walkways, avoid using salt as a de-icing agent. Consider environmentally-friendly alternatives - Calcium Magnesium Acetate, Ice Ban, gravel, or sand.
- ☑ Remove heavy snow from branches, but leave it on the ground around plants.

happy winter!