1. When in doubt, wait to pull it out. 
   new growth could be a native plant

2. Cut old dried stems.

3. Use dried twigs and leaves as mulch. 
   birds like it!

4. Check the soil moisture. 
   if the soil feels dry, then it’s time to water

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**container gardens**

- Use fresh potting soil and a clean container for new plants.
- Use a container that is deeper than the rooting depth of the plant.
- Leave a small space between the top of the soil and the rim of the pot. ½ inch for small containers and up to 2 inches for large containers.
- Use a container with plentiful drainage.
- Smaller containers and clay pots need water more often.
- On the roof, consider setting up a wind-break, such as a lattice, that won’t cast shade.

**plants in the ground**

- Prune summer and fall-blooming woody plants, as needed.
- When ground has thawed, plant trees, shrubs, and perennials.
- Re-plant trees, shrubs, and perennials, that have “heaved” out of the ground.
- Mulch with leaf litter, twigs, and dead perennial stems.
- Check soil moisture 1-2” down. If the soil feels dry, then it’s time to water.
- Apply compost, compost tea or other slow-release organic fertilizers as needed.

**happy spring!**
how to Nurture Your Garden in summer

1. Get to know plant names.
keep a running list of plants in your garden

2. Prevent weeds from outcompeting natives.
pull them by the root or clip them at the crown to avoid disturbing the soil

3. Install a rain barrel!

**container gardens**
- Move pots to shade when it’s hot.
- Smaller containers and clay pots need water more often.
- Drip irrigation kits are great for containers. Avoid standing water to prevent mosquito outbreaks!
- On the roof, set up a wind-break, such as a lattice, that won’t cast shade.

**plants in the ground**
- Dead-head, prune, and transplant as needed.
- If a plant wilts in the daytime, but recovers in the evening, watering is not necessary.
- Apply compost, compost tea, or other slow-release organic fertilizers as needed.

**happy summer!**
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*

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**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!*
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!**