

FALL GARDENING CHECKLIST

Fall brings a mix of harvest and cleanup. Watch for the point when cooler weather slows ripening on the vine, and harvest tomatoes and other tender crops before frost or heavy rain can damage them, rather than waiting until the last minute. Plant cool-season crops like lettuce, spinach, kale, and radishes for a fall harvest, and use row covers or cold frames to stretch the season further if an early frost threatens.

As plants finish for the year, pull spent or diseased growth and add the healthy debris to your compost pile. Loosen and enrich the soil with compost or aged manure so it is ready for spring, and save seeds from your best-performing plants while you are already out working the beds. A layer of mulch over bare soil helps protect it through the winter ahead.

1 HARVEST BEFORE FROST

Pick tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, beans, and other tender crops before frost or heavy rain can damage them. Bring in any remaining green tomatoes to ripen indoors.



2 PLANT COOL-SEASON CROPS

Sow or transplant cool-season vegetables like lettuce, spinach, kale, arugula, radishes, turnips, and carrots for a fall harvest.



3 PROTECT FROM EARLY FROST

Use row covers, cloches, or cold frames to protect plants and extend your growing season.



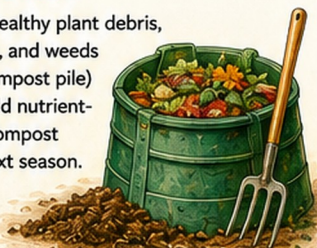
4 CLEAN UP SPENT PLANTS

Remove spent or diseased plants and crop debris from the garden beds.



5 COMPOST HEALTHY DEBRIS

Add healthy plant debris, leaves, and weeds (to compost pile) to build nutrient-rich compost for next season.



6 PREPARE AND ENRICH THE SOIL

Loosen the soil and work in compost or aged manure to improve fertility and soil structure for spring.



7 SAVE SEEDS

Save seeds from your best-performing plants, such as tomatoes, beans, peppers, and herbs.



8 MULCH BARE SOIL

Add a 2-4 inch layer of mulch over bare soil to protect it from erosion and help retain moisture through the winter.



9 CLEAN AND STORE TOOLS

Clean tools thoroughly, sharpen blades, oil metal parts, and store in a dry place.



A LITTLE WORK
IN FALL MEANS
A BETTER GARDEN
NEXT SPRING!



BONUS FALL TASKS

- Check and store or protect cannas, dahlias, and other tender perennials.
- Divide and replant herbs like mint and chives.
- Plant spring-blooming bulbs.



- Rake leaves for mulch or compost.
- Plan next year's garden while the season is still fresh in your mind!

