

# Ask an Expert – Time for Yard and Garden End-of-Season Tasks

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Autumn is officially here, and there is much to look forward to – pumpkins on the porch, apple cider, cooler temperatures and walks through crunchy leaves. But before you get too comfortable, don't forget the yard and garden end-of-season tasks. Consider these October gardening tips from the Utah State University Extension Gardeners Almanac to help. Included are links to fact sheets and videos for further information.

- Consider adding a smaller [structure](#) such as a low tunnel or a larger [high tunnel](#) to [extend your growing season](#).
- Learn how and when to harvest [winter squash](#). Store winter squash in a cool, 50-55 F, dry location.
- Plant [garlic](#) cloves from mid-October through early November.
- [Click here](#) for a list of fall cleanup chores and good landscape practices.
- Remove vegetable plants from the garden once the harvest is complete. This will help reduce overwintering sites for insect pests.
- Protect [tomatoes](#) from early frost by covering the plants with a blanket or tarp.
- Overwinter [carrots](#), [beets](#) and [parsnips](#) in the ground by placing mulch over them. This prevents the ground from freezing.
- Rototill leaves, [compost](#) and/or manure into the vegetable garden to enhance the soil microbe activity.
- Limit rose pruning to heading back excessively long canes. This will help prevent damage from heavy snow loads.
- Cut back ornamental grasses in snow-prone areas once the foliage has died down; otherwise, leave

them until spring and enjoy the vertical accent during winter.

- Plant spring-blooming bulbs through early November.
- Consider [planting trees and shrubs](#) in the fall to enhance root establishment.
- Dig tender perennials such as gladiolas, dahlias, begonias and canna lilies after the foliage has died down and store them in a cool, 45-50 F, dry location.
- [Protect trunks](#) of young trees from winter cracking by wrapping them with a white reflective tree wrap.
- Dig and remove annual flowers.
- Plant cold-hardy annuals such as pansies, primrose, [kale](#) and ornamental cabbage.
- [Prune out](#) (to the ground) raspberry canes that have fruited.
- Fall is the best time to control tough perennial weeds such as field bindweed (morning glory). [Click here](#) for a list of weed control options.
- The last lawn mowing of the season should be 1-1 ½ inches high to minimize disease problems.
- Apply a quick-release nitrogen [fertilizer](#) after the last mowing (late October to early November) for early green-up next spring.
- [Click here](#) for the average first and last frost dates in locations around Utah.

## Pests and Problems:

- Send diseased vegetable plants and leaves to the local landfill.
- Use burlap or other soft materials to [wrap evergreens](#) to prevent snow breakage.
- Treat for [Coryneum blight](#) in stone fruits (cherries, peaches, nectarines, apricots and plums) when 50 percent of the leaves have dropped.
- Clean up and discard fallen fruit to reduce overwintering sites for disease and insect pests.