

## October

- [Click here](#) for a listing of the average last and first frost dates
- 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 harvest is complete to 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 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 pruning of roses to the heading back of excessively long canes to prevent damage from heavy snow loads
- Cut back ornamental grasses in snow prone areas once the foliage has dried down, otherwise leave them until spring and enjoy the vertical accent during winter
- Plant spring blooming bulbs through early November
- [Planting trees](#) and shrubs in the fall enhances 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 flower plantings
- Plant cold hardy annuals: pansy, 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 (aka morning glory). [Click here](#) for a list of weed control options
- The last mowing of the season should be 1-1 ½ inches high to minimize disease problems
- Apply a quick-release nitrogen [fertilizer](#) late fall, after the last mowing (late October – early November) for early green up next spring

### 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) at 50% leaf drop
- Clean up and discard all fallen fruit to reduce overwintering sites for disease and insect pests

- Other task: \_\_\_\_\_
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