November Garden Tips

GENERAL

- Put up additional bird feeders, and add a heater to a bird bath to accommodate birds' winter needs.
- Take steps to prevent garden ponds from freezing.
- Protect outdoor faucets and empty water lines.
- Take care of tools. Clean power tools of all plant material and dirt. Replace worn spark plugs, oil all necessary parts, sharpen blades, and add fuel stabilizer.
 - Clean and fix all hand tools. Sand and repaint worn handles. Sharpen and remove any rust.
- Order seed catalogs now for January garden planning.

HOME (Indoor plants and activities)

- Continue dark treatment for poinsettias by keeping them in complete darkness from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. daily until early December or until red bracts begin to show.
- Begin planting indoor edibles, such as herbs and greens, for use all winter long.



LANDSCAPE (Lawns, trees, shrubs and flowers)

- If needed, fertilize lawns around Thanksgiving after mowing has ceased.
- Dig and store tender flowering bulbs and keep in a protected location.
- Continue to <u>plant spring-flowering bulbs</u> until the ground is frozen.
- After the ground has frozen, mulch or apply winter protection to roses and perennials, if needed.
- After chrysanthemums have stopped blooming, cut stems back close to the ground.
- Spray sensitive evergreens with anti-desiccant to protect against damage from dry winds.
- If you are planning to order a "live" Christmas tree, prepare its planting hole before the soil freezes. Mulch the area heavily to prevent freezing, or dig the hole and put fill in a protected, nonfreezing area such as a garage or basement.

GARDEN (Vegetables, fruits and herbs)

- If frost hasn't taken your garden yet, continue harvesting.
- Dig parsnips, Jerusalem artichokes and horseradish for the table and for cool storage.
- Protect the trunks of young fruit trees to prevent rodent damage, but only if needed.
- Be sure not to store apples or pears with vegetables. The fruits give off ethylene gas which speeds up the breakdown of vegetables and will cause them to develop off flavors.
- After the ground freezes, mulch small fruit plants such as strawberries. One inch of straw or leaves is ideal for strawberries.



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November To Do List	
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Week of

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Wednesday	Saturday
Tuesday	Friday
Monday	Thursday

University of Illinois Extension, Fulton-Mason-Peoria-Tazewell Unit

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		 oggaWiggler from Pixabay

November Pictures/Sketches/ Observations

