

Spade and Trowel Garden Club

November - December 2011
Newsletter

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Its time to fertilize pansies, trees and shrubs if you haven't yet. Apply fertilizer under the drip line and further out after the first killing frost. Don't forget that American Beech and Crab Apple trees are sensitive to fertilizer and you should reduce the usual dosage by half.

If you planted a fall crop of spinach or lettuce, it is time to thin it out.

Your spring bulbs can be planted with success thru the month of November!

It is time to rake the leaves from your lawn and flowerbeds! Run the lawnmower over them or use another method to shred them up. They'll make a great addition to your compost pile. Or you can use the leaves as organic mulch around your garden beds,, shrubs, fruit trees and vines.

Use the compost you tended all year for mulch, or salt marsh hay. Do not use straw which has seeds that can germinate in your beds.

In mid November add mulch to the base of your rose bushes. If you do it any earlier you invite un- lovely little insects.

Take care of your summer tools and they will take care of you. Clean and either coat with oil or store in a bucket that is filled with a combination of sand and oil. Drain fuel tanks on lawnmowers, weed wackers etc.

Harvest frost sweetened brussel sprouts, carrots, snips, cabbage and kale.

Rock soapwort, a creeping, mat-forming perennial. Leaves ovate, hairy, bright evergreen. Sun, 4 by 18 inch. Soil well-drained, fertile, alkaline Zone 4 Cut to the ground after flowering to keep it compact.



Don't forget to fill your bird feeders regularly and leave fresh water in your bird baths. It is so heartwarming to See our fine feathered friends hanging around the yard in the dead of winter

In early winter, prune bleeder trees for safety and structural purposes. Some examples for bleeder trees are maple, elms, birch, and dogwood

Broad evergreen leaves loose moisture in the winter and need extra water. So water your rhododendrons, laurels and hollies during winter thaws if the soil is dry.



Here is a list of plants that every flower arranger should have growing in their garden...

Boxwood	Holly	Oregon Grape	Holly
American Arborvitae	Winterberry	Hydrangeas	
Creeping Juniper	Rhododendron	Leather Leaf Mahonia	
Wintergreen	Barberry	Mugo Pine	
Spruce Tree		Euonymus	Emerald Gaiety



You know you are addicted to gardening when.....

You grab other people's banana peels, coffee grinds, apple cores, etc. for your compost pile.

You sneak home a 7ft. Japanese Maple and wonder if your spouse will notice.

You spend more time chopping your kitchen greens for the compost pile than for cooking.

You take every single person who enters your house on a "garden tour".

You can't bear to thin seedlings and throw them away.