



Autumn Plant Care Guide

Water
Evergreens
Trees
Perennials

Preparing your Landscape for Autumn

With fall in the air and winter on its way, you may be wondering just what you should be doing in your yard. Hopefully you have been enjoying your landscape, but many of your plants are probably past their peak. Before you run out and begin your fall clean up, keep in mind that not all plants are the same and therefore need to be treated differently. Follow these simple tips for a healthier landscape.

Watering. The million dollar question! How much should I water? Unfortunately there are no hard and fast rules that apply because of the variety of soils and conditions. The best thing for your plants is to water slowly and thoroughly on a regular basis. It is ok to let the soil dry a bit so you are not over watering. Lastly, try to keep water off the foliage, and avoid watering from overhead. ***It is critical this time of year to give your evergreens extra water before the ground freezes, especially new plants.**

Winter winds and sunscald can be damaging to evergreen plants. To help prevent moisture loss through the leaves and needles, spray an anti-transpirant on the foliage late this fall. You can purchase an anti-transpirant (such as Wilt-Pruf) in an easy to use spray bottle. Ask an associate at Culvers to help you find it. (Follow the directions on the label.)

Around Thanksgiving, wrap trunks of young trees to prevent any damage from mice and rabbits. Tree wrap will also protect the trunk from sun scald and frost cracks. Be sure to use a professional grade tree wrap and remove it in the spring.

It might be tempting to cut back those perennials that are looking sad, but it is best to let them die back completely to the ground. However, it is a good idea to rake and remove any leaf and plant debris that may be diseased. When the leaves are done falling and you've cleaned up debris, it is time to put an extra layer of mulch onto your beds and around trees. Wait until the ground is almost frozen to avoid rodents from moving into your new mulch. Follow up in early spring with a more thorough clean up.

Pruning Do's and Don'ts

Fall is NOT the best time to be pruning. Pruning in fall can open your trees and shrubs to disease and insect damage. As you may notice, most insects are looking for a place to hang out for winter, and you don't want your trees to be a welcome mat! Pruning in fall encourages new growth that will not have time to harden before freezing.

The best time to prune spring blooming plants is after they flower. Most other plants can be pruned in late winter or early spring.

Hardy Roses: Do not dead head in the fall. Allow it to form hips and do NOT cut it back until spring.

*(Tea Roses require much more care)

Points of Interest:

- Water, Water, Water!
- Remove diseased plant material (as well as annuals and vegetables)
- Apply anti-transpirant (i.e. Wilt-Pruf)
- Wrap trunks of young trees
- Save pruning for spring

Other Helpful Tips:

- Drain water line and irrigation systems
- Do not fertilize trees and shrubs after August
- Think spring, **plant bulbs** now!
- Look for great fall interest in mums, pansy's, and other seasonal favorites.
- Contact the experts at Culver's for any other questions. 319-377-4195