

Fall Garden Preparation Checklist

Clean Up Garden Beds

- Remove dead plants and annuals.
- Prune dead or diseased branches.
- Rake and compost leaves (avoid diseased plants).

Add Organic Matter

- Spread compost, aged manure, or shredded leaves.
- Turn the soil to incorporate organic matter.

Plant Fall Crops

- Plant garlic, onions, and shallots.
- Sow leafy greens like kale and spinach.
- Add cover crops like clover or rye.

Mulch Beds and Protect Plants

- Apply 2-4 inches of mulch around perennials and on empty beds.
- Wrap sensitive plants (e.g., roses) with burlap.

Divide and Transplant Perennials

- Dig up perennials like daylilies and hostas.
- Separate clumps and replant healthy divisions.

Prep Trees and Shrubs

- Prune dead or damaged branches.
- Apply slow-release fertilizer.
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Water deeply before the first frost.

Clean and Store Tools

- Scrub tools to remove dirt and rust.
- Sharpen blades and oil metal parts.
- Store tools in a dry, sheltered area.

Plan for Spring

- Sketch a garden layout and note improvements.
- Order spring bulbs like tulips and daffodils.
- List seeds and plants for next season.