



# Fall Care for Your Landscape & Pollinators



## Fall Leaves Provide Year Round Habitat

Toads

<https://www.nwf.org/Magazines/National-Wildlife/2006/Backyard-Houses-for-Toads>

Shivering Moth that pollinates fall blooming witch hazel

Bumblebee queen overwinters in rodent hole – leaves help insulate

Mulch for your garden

Suppresses weeds, conserve moisture and insulates roots

Don't pile over crown of plants – when wet leaves make poor insulator

## Winter Protection

Water thoroughly before ground freezes

Evergreens, moisture lovers, new plantings are priority

Leave healthy Perennials Stand for winter

Increase plant hardiness

Home for many beneficial insects

Food for the birds

Winter interest

Winter Mulch

Borderline hardy plants, late additions to the garden

Evergreen boughs, straw or marsh hay

Apply after the ground freezes

Protect susceptible plants from winter desiccation

Winter wind and sun can be drying

Broadleaf evergreens, needled evergreens susceptible to winter burn

Evergreen boughs

Burlap

Landscape fabric

Decorative fencing

Non Hardy roses in colder climates

Wait until plants are dormant to cover

Only prune what is needed for winter protection

#### Rose cones

- Mound soil over base
- Once soil is frozen
- Place cone on top and anchor in place
- Add ventilation if needed

#### Leaves

- Prune roses back to 18"
- Surround bed with hardware cloth
  - Sink bottom few inches into the soil
- Once ground frozen add dry leaves
- 3' of dry leaves packed down over plant

#### Soil Mound

- Secure canes or prune back as needed
- Surround with cylinder of hardware cloth
  - Sink bottom few inches into the soil
- Wait until ground freezes
- Fill cylinder with compost or topsoil

#### Climbers

- Secure canes
- Wrap with burlap stuffed with straw or evergreen boughs

#### Minnesota Tip Method for any rose

- Secure canes
- Dig a trench on one side of plant
- Use shovel and cut through roots on one side of the plant about 1' away from the stems
- Tip plant into the trench
- Cover with soil
- Once frozen mulch w/ straw or evergreen bough

### **Overwintering Containers**

- Move to sheltered place & insulate roots with
  - Annual pots, woodchips, bags of leaves, potting mix.....

- Group plants together and mulch with woodchips

- Heel in – dig trench, place pot in trench & cover pot with soil

- Move into unheated garage

- Provide additional root insulation
- Water whenever soil is thawed and dry

## Winterize Rain barrels

<https://www.freshcoastguardians.com/resources/green-strategies/rain-barrels-cisterns>

Disconnect from downspout

May need to cap off opening if using downspout diverter

May need to reconnect downspout or lengthen rain chain

Empty, clean and rinse rain barrel

Turn upside down to store or move to shed or garage

## Protecting Plants from Wildlife

Fencing - Cylinder of hardware cloth

Sunk several inches into the ground to protect from voles

4' high or more for rabbits

4-6' high & several feet away from plantings for deer

Animal Repellent

Apply before they start feeding for best results

Plantskydd is rain resistant – apply less often

<https://www.plantskydd.com>

Always read and follow label directions and reapply as needed

Scare tactics – urban wildlife are hard to scare

Clanging pans and CDs

Strips of Mylar

Faux animals

Handful of human hair

Cheap votive candles

Irish spring soap.....

Monitor tactics throughout the winter, adjust as needed

Consider using a variety of tactics and alternating for success

## Overwintering Non Hardy Plants

Acclimating plants and Managing Pests

[https://www.melindamyers.com/audio-video/melindas-garden-moment-audio-tips/houseplants-holiday-plants-cut-flowers/moving-houseplants-indoors?ccm\\_paging\\_p=3](https://www.melindamyers.com/audio-video/melindas-garden-moment-audio-tips/houseplants-holiday-plants-cut-flowers/moving-houseplants-indoors?ccm_paging_p=3)

[https://www.melindamyers.com/audio-video/melindas-garden-moment-audio-tips/problems-pests-weeds/yellow-leaves-on-hibiscus-mandevilla-and-other-indoor-plants?ccm\\_paging\\_p=4](https://www.melindamyers.com/audio-video/melindas-garden-moment-audio-tips/problems-pests-weeds/yellow-leaves-on-hibiscus-mandevilla-and-other-indoor-plants?ccm_paging_p=4)

Isolate plants and monitor for pests  
Treat with an organic product like Summit Year Round Spray Oil or  
Insecticidal soap  
    Read and follow label directions  
Gradually move to lower light location or supplement with artificial light  
    New LED plant lights use less energy and are now more affordable

<https://www.melindamyers.com/audio-video/melindas-garden-moment-audio-tips/flowers-ornamental-grasses/overwintering-hibiscus-mandevilla-bougainvillea-and-other-tropical-plants>

#### Hibiscus

[https://www.melindamyers.com/articles/what-to-do-with-tropical-hibiscus-in-fall?ccm\\_paging\\_p=55](https://www.melindamyers.com/articles/what-to-do-with-tropical-hibiscus-in-fall?ccm_paging_p=55)

Move indoors and grow as houseplant, sunny window, moist soil  
Somewhat dormant – low light, cool temperatures &  
infrequent watering

#### Mandevilla

Move indoors and grow as houseplant, sunny window,  
water when top 1" of soil dries  
Somewhat dormant like Hibiscus  
Store in cool dark location and only water monthly or less often

#### Palms

Grow as Houseplants  
Bright light, avoid drafts, boost humidity

#### Rosemary and Lavender

Bright light, cool temperatures, water as top 1" of soil starts to dry  
[https://www.melindamyers.com/articles/overwintering-rosemary-is-wilting-and-dying?ccm\\_paging\\_p=29](https://www.melindamyers.com/articles/overwintering-rosemary-is-wilting-and-dying?ccm_paging_p=29)

[https://www.melindamyers.com/audio-video/melindas-garden-moment-audio-tips/vegetables-herbs-fruits/growing-rosemary-indoors?ccm\\_paging\\_p=2](https://www.melindamyers.com/audio-video/melindas-garden-moment-audio-tips/vegetables-herbs-fruits/growing-rosemary-indoors?ccm_paging_p=2)

[https://www.melindamyers.com/audio-video/melindas-garden-moment-audio-tips/vegetables-herbs-fruits/growing-lavender-indoors?ccm\\_paging\\_p=7](https://www.melindamyers.com/audio-video/melindas-garden-moment-audio-tips/vegetables-herbs-fruits/growing-lavender-indoors?ccm_paging_p=7)

#### Citrus

Bright light, normal room temperature, soil slightly moist

<https://www.melindamyers.com/audio-video/melindas-garden-moment-audio-tips/vegetables-herbs-fruits/grow-meyer-lemons-indoors>

### **Non hardy bulbs, tubers, rhizomes....**

Dormant Storage

Dig after tops yellow or killed by frost

Cure, store in cool dark location

<https://www.melindamyers.com/audio-video/melindas-garden-moment-videos/flowers-ornamental-grasses/storing-non-hardy-rhizomes-tubers-and-corms>

[https://www.melindamyers.com/articles/digging-and-storing-tender-bulbs?ccm\\_paging\\_p=55](https://www.melindamyers.com/articles/digging-and-storing-tender-bulbs?ccm_paging_p=55)

Move indoors before frost arrives if growing as houseplant

Canna (rhizome)

Cure overnight

Pack in peat moss, vermiculite or sawdust

Store in cool 45 to 50 degree dark location

Elephant Ears (tuber or fibrous roots)

[https://www.melindamyers.com/audio-video/melindas-garden-moment-audio-tips/flowers-ornamental-grasses/preserving-elephant-ears-bulbs-corms-and-plants?ccm\\_paging\\_p=2](https://www.melindamyers.com/audio-video/melindas-garden-moment-audio-tips/flowers-ornamental-grasses/preserving-elephant-ears-bulbs-corms-and-plants?ccm_paging_p=2)

<https://wimastergardener.org/article/elephant-ears-colocasia-alocasia-and-xanthosoma/> - Wisconsin source

<https://www.plantdelights.com/blogs/articles/elephant-ears-bulbs-colocasia-plant> - North Carolina Nursery source

Those with a tuber can be grown as houseplant

or store tuber in cool dark location like canna

Non-tuber forming types need to be grown as houseplants

Bright location, room temperature, moist soil

Dahlias (tuberous roots)

Cure for several hours

Wait until spring to divide if possible

Store in peat moss or sawdust

45 degree dark location

Caladium (tuberous corm)

Cure for several days

Store in dry peat moss

65 degree dark location

(or grow as houseplant – will go dormant for short period)

Calla Lily (rhizome)

Cure for 1-2 days

Store in peat moss or vermiculate

50 degree dark location

Gladiola (corm)

Cure at 70-80 degrees for several weeks

Store dry, uncovered 40 degree location

Banana (rhizome)

[https://www.melindamyers.com/articles/overwintering-banana-plant?ccm\\_paging\\_p=24](https://www.melindamyers.com/articles/overwintering-banana-plant?ccm_paging_p=24)

Grow as houseplant in sunny window

Store rhizome like a canna

Fiber bananas have made it through zone 5 and 6 winters  
apply winter mulch after ground freezes

## Fall Lawn Care

A healthy lawn is the best defense against weeds, insects and disease

Mow high and cut often –removing only 1/3 of total leaf blade

Double cut long clippings, compost or use as mulch

Keep mowing as long as the grass keeps growing

No need to make last cut shorter unless you prefer the look

*Grow cool season grasses like bluegrass, fescue and ryegrass 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 inches tall. Warm season grasses like bermudagrass, carpetgrass, centipedegrass and zoysia should be grown at 1 to 2 inches tall while St Augustine should a bit higher, 2 to 3 inches, for best results. Taller grass is better able to compete with weeds.*

Sharp blades

[https://www.melindamyers.com/audio-video/melindas-garden-moment-audio-tips/lawn-landscape-design/improve-your-lawn-and-save-time-by-sharpening-the-mower-blades?ccm\\_paging\\_p=10](https://www.melindamyers.com/audio-video/melindas-garden-moment-audio-tips/lawn-landscape-design/improve-your-lawn-and-save-time-by-sharpening-the-mower-blades?ccm_paging_p=10)

Reduce time needed to mow

Use less fuel and reduce emissions

Lawn uses less moisture and looks better

Fertilize for your management and landscape style

[https://www.melindamyers.com/audio-video/melindas-garden-moment-audio-tips/lawn-landscape-design/fall-lawn-fertilization?ccm\\_paging\\_p=18](https://www.melindamyers.com/audio-video/melindas-garden-moment-audio-tips/lawn-landscape-design/fall-lawn-fertilization?ccm_paging_p=18)

Memorial Day, Labor Day and Halloween-Thanksgiving (Cool Season)  
Easter, Memorial Day & Labor Day  
No later than one month before first fall frost (Warm Season)

Fall is most beneficial and efficient time to fertilize  
Even one fertilization in fall, can greatly reduce weeds  
**Never fertilize frozen soil**

Always sweep clippings and fertilizer off walks, drive and other hard surfaces  
[https://www.melindamyers.com/audio-video/melindas-garden-moment-audio-tips/sustainable-gardening/sweep-your-way-to-cleaner-water?ccm\\_paging\\_p=15](https://www.melindamyers.com/audio-video/melindas-garden-moment-audio-tips/sustainable-gardening/sweep-your-way-to-cleaner-water?ccm_paging_p=15)

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