

# Home, Lawn & Garden

## Prepare your garden life now for next year

(NC)—Begin by cleaning up your garden: remove debris, diseased foliage and weeds.

Prune and shape trees and shrubs. Cut off all dead wood and foliage.

Now's the time to think about new perennials, shrubs and trees. They will benefit from fall planting because it gives them time to anchor and establish new roots. Using a high phosphate fertilizer also promotes root growth. Fall is the perfect time to divide, reorganize and transplant plants. You can find information and advice about the right fertilizer for your plantings from Scotts Canada at [www.scottscanada.ca](http://www.scottscanada.ca). Be sure to add a two-to-three inch/ 5 to 7.5 cm layer of mulch to new plants. Rake leaves onto flowerbeds and around shrubs and bushes to create a warm blanket that protects plants against severe cold or add a protective layer of mulch. Scotts NatureScapes is a product that degrades into beneficial organic matter.

Eliminate potential winter homes for garden pests by ensuring sheds, porches and sheltered alcoves are closed tight and cleared of items that will encourage nesting.

Take the time now to ensure gardening tools are in perfect condition to avoid wasting time getting started next spring.

- If you spread fertilizer or seeds with a spreader, remember that you should never leave product in the bin. Pour left-over material back into the package and seal the package tightly. When it's time to put away the spreader until spring, wash thoroughly to remove all material clinging to the spreader. Hot water may be required at times to remove stubborn residue. Allow the spreader to dry thoroughly in the sun. Next, lubricate the axle bushings with light oil. Finally, store your spreader in a clean, dry location.

- Remove your new Scotts Miracle-Gro LiquaFeed or Garden Feeder from your garden hose. Drain the water from all hoses; then coil and hang them so they won't sag and kink. Hang them from hose hangers, available in hardware stores.

- Clean all tools, from shears to shovels. Use a wire brush to remove any caked-on dirt or vegetation. Lubricate all pivot points and springs and then spray all bare metal parts and cutting edges with penetrating oil to prevent rust.

- Check all hand tools for loose screws or nuts and tighten where necessary. Check for any broken or bent parts and replace or repair them.

- Wipe all wooden handles down with boiled linseed oil, warmed in a pot of boiling water for a few minutes.

- Sharpen all cutting edges, then wipe down the blades with an oily rag or spray with penetrating oil.

Finally, anticipate spring with new bulb plantings. Plant bulbs in groups of three or five about two-and-a-half times deeper than the size of the bulb, pointy end up. While bulbs come with their own food, you can encourage deep roots by lining the bulb's new home with Scotts Bulb Food and then adding a layer of soil, followed by the bulb itself.



### TERRA Trends

GREENHOUSES

#### Fall in Love With Planting

Don't put that garden shovel away just yet fall is the best time to plant. Not to mention the most important time of the year for fertilizing cool-season grass lawns. Our garden centres have a great selection in the fall and most of them are good-sized plants with a full season of growth behind them.

Start this weekend and do a little something each week as an ongoing project. Many garden centres are winding down this time of year but are bringing in fresh stock for fall planting to support this trend.

Plants planted in the fall benefit from cooler air temperatures, not to mention soil temperatures still warm enough to encourage good root growth. After a winter of dormancy, fall-planted trees and shrubs practically shoot out of the soil the following spring.

Planting in the fall ensures your plants get off to the best possible start.

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for more

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