

WHAT ARE OUR STAR GARDENERS DOING IN NOV?



Janet Schulz:

Cutting back any plant with soft stems and leaves.
Going to put humous around the base of older plants.
Sprinkle epsom salt on my broadleaf evergreens.
Apply Wilt-Pruf, a plant protecting spray, before it gets too cold.
Leaving the oak leaves in my garden but trying to take up Norway maple leaves.
Waiting for bulbs to go 1/2 price, so I can pot up a few to force.

Marina Kunkera:

November is such a beautiful month 🍁🍁🍁. There is color everywhere. I have lots to do and I'm happy to have an excuse to be outdoors. Autumn leaf pick-up is just the tip of the iceberg. This month I planted my tulip bulbs and garlic cloves. Bringing in all garden

accessories; tables and chairs, sun umbrellas, decorative figurines, plant stands and supports, and my potted trees. I'm putting away all my garden tools - clean, oil, and sharpen. Make sure all my birdhouses are clean and ready for new tenants. Put out the big bird feeder. Wrap my rose trees with burlap. Pot my Amaryllis flowers and place them in a warm, sunny area. Finish cutting back perennials and mulch with my compost and leaf mulch. Decorate the front door for winter holidays 🎄 Thanksgiving, Christmas, and snow days ❄️❄️



Paul Sisko:

Dear WAGC Gardeners.

I do hope we hold on to the recent weather temperatures for a while. What a joy to be pruning, transplanting and adding perennials as well as bulbs to our landscapes with temps in the 60's and 70's. I've got most of my Hostas pruned to the ground and have been concentrating on my woody perennials. Those, I am either shaping for next year's new growth or cutting out new long runners and crossed branches to allow for good air flow within the plant. I'm enjoying my

Cannas, Dahlias and numerous annuals for their continuous color. My vegetable garden is done. Picked my last Eggplants last week and cut my last Lettuce today 10/29.

Don't know when our first real frost will be to dig up my Cannas and Dahlias and Colocasia and try to save the tubers for next year. That will happen as soon as the frost hits along with planting new bulbs. Bringing in somewhat tender plants to leave in the atrium all winter and real tender plants into the low heated south facing foyer room for the winter; that will happen this month as well. One of the last things to do is blow out all the 26 zone watering lines I have and roll up all the hoses and put them in the basement along with any tools that use water in the garden like sprayers and power washers. Don't forget to clean off all your dirty tools and oil the pruners and loppers for next year. Run your lawn mowers dry or put fuel stabilizer in the tank.

I've got to be early this year as I'm having left knee replacement surgery on Nov. 16th so I'm working extra fast this season to get this work done.

All the lawn areas have been thatched and reseeded so we are on our way to closing our gardens for now only to dream of next year's new plans for our 2024 garden. This winter, catch up on all the garden reading you couldn't do this year and make up your plant order list for next season. Do it early.

Wishing all of you a healthy joyous holiday season.

Paul

Nancy Blasius:

Here's what I'll be doing in my garden this November. I am behind as I was away half of October.

1. Cleaning up my vegetable beds after the frost. The only things I don't add to my compost are the tomato plants because of their tendency toward disease. I am lucky to be able to "compost" them in some woods on my property; otherwise I would bag them for the garbage. Even though kale may overwinter, I have found it better to pull it out to help control the cabbage worm next season. I will spread the remains of this year's compost on the cleaned up beds.

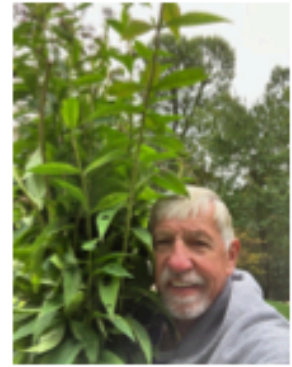
2. I will dig up my remaining potatoes before the ground freezes, cure them for two weeks inside at temps above 65 degrees, and then store them in my basement.

3. I need to plant my garlic as I didn't get to it in October.

4. I will be planting tulips in my deer-proof area. I am also planting a few varieties of Dutch Iris this year. I like them as they bloom in later May and June, after the tulips and daffodils are done, plus the deer don't bother them! I ordered them online from John Scheepers and added bulb food when I plant.

5. I will cut my peonies back to the ground to help prevent blight. Most of the rest of my perennials will wait till the spring for their cleanup for the sake of providing a winter habitat for the beneficial insects and food for the birds.

6. I will be digging up my elephant ears, canna, and dahlias, drying them out for a few weeks in



the garage , and then storing them in boxes in newspaper or peat-moss in my basement.

If you are looking for plants that will give you flowers up until frost next year, I can recommend Giant Benary Zinnias, various varieties of asters, Rocket Snapdragons, Montauk Daisies, and hardy perennial chrysanthemums , as well as salvia, all of which are still blooming in my yard .

Joan Rottkamp:

I bought a package of Safer Deer Off Stations at Lowe's. There were six "stations" in the pack for sixteen dollars. You insert metal rods into the "stations" containing dried blood and put them into the ground every four to eight feet. You can see them in the fall chrysanthemums and lantana. The flowers would have been eaten if they hadn't been used. Read people's comments on the internet and decide if you would like to try them!



Sharon Ma:

I have a lot of plants moved indoors now and they will stay till mid May before I take them outdoors again. So, it is really important to be diligent to check for pests constantly to make sure they don't have a pest infestation while being indoors. I pre-made homemade insecticidal soap and fill up as many spray bottles I have around the house. I often reuse spray bottles from cleaning products. I marked "Insecticidal soap" on each bottle and set one in each of my plant corners. Whenever I see mealybugs on a plant, I will spray them with it.

If there are any plants that have more than a few pests on them, I will take them to the sink or bathtub depending on the size of the pot, and give them a good wash. I use an old toothbrush to scrub around the stems and where leaves and stem meet, and the tips of the branches. After I wash off the pests, I spray them with the insecticidal soap thoroughly before I put it back to its place. I don't use any systemic products on any of my plants. The homemade insecticidal soap works very effectively on mealybugs, aphids, whiteflies, and scales. For spider mites, because they are not insects, you will need to spray neem oil to control them. To avoid getting spider mites, don't let the plants (soil) and the area (humidity) get too dry. They only thrive when the plant is dry for a long time.

