

## November Garden Tips

-Still a little time for adding spring bulbs and new plants - perennials, shrubs, trees - but don't forget to keep them watered - if Mother Nature doesn't cooperate with enough rain.

-Roses - place a layer of mulch around the roots - so that the first part of the stem nearest the ground is covered.



-I would also add a heavy protective layer on tender perennials once they are cut down - Mexican bush sage, pineapple sage. To be on the safe side you could dig up some of the more tender plants and store them in a freeze-free place for the winter - garage, basement.

-When you cut down your perennials leave about 6" of stems.

-Time to go through your garden tools. Clean and sharpen rusty blades, tighten loose screws, and get rid of anything that's not working. A little bit of WD 40 works wonders on cranky springs and joints - so does sewing machine oil. JoAnn Fabrics has a man come every 3 months who sharpens everything from knives to scissors and garden tools. I believe December will be his next visit.

-Clean old weeds and leaves out of all your gardens to prevent diseases.

-If you have rosemary and/or other evergreens in containers, remember to check on them during the winter - water if need be. Icy winds can dry outdoor potted plants.

-Leaf removal from lawns is critical.

-Bring out the bird feeders for our feathered friends. Make sure they are clean. Use a mixture of 9 parts water and 1 part bleach. If you have ceramic birdbaths either turn the bowl upside down or store for the winter to prevent the bowls from cracking due to ice.



-Thanksgiving bouquets? Try using some things from your yard - nandina, beautyberry, magnolias, pyracantha. If they are still around in a few weeks, add a few stems of amsonia, dried seed stems from sensitive



ferns, plumes/tails from ornamental grasses. It's surprising what you could find in the yard to use either alone or to add interest to a bunch of purchased flowers. Cut hydrangea flowers now to dry for future holiday decorating. A few pinecones/acorns/colored leaves scattered on the holiday table or use pinecones to hold name tags - gathered acorns or other nuts displayed in a pretty glass

container. (before using indoors - place pinecones on a cookie sheet and bake for a few hours at 200 degrees to kill any unwanted insects.)

-Don't trim any spring blooming shrubs now.

-Gather hyacinth bean vine/moonvine seed pods for next year. Make sure the HBV seeds are black and the MV seeds hard/dry before storing.

Until the next thyme,  
Gwen