

Autumn Garden Chores Checklist



1. Harvest and Preserve

- ☐ **Harvest late-season crops:** Collect the last of your tomatoes, squash, pumpkins, and root vegetables like carrots, beets, and potatoes.
- ☐ **Pick and dry herbs:** Gather herbs like rosemary, thyme, and sage to dry or freeze for winter use.
- ☐ **Can or freeze produce:** Preserve the harvest by canning, freezing, or dehydrating fruits and vegetables.
- ☐ **Collect seeds:** Save seeds from heirloom or open-pollinated plants for next year's planting.

2. Prepare for Fall Planting

- ☐ **Plant cool-season crops:** Sow crops like kale, spinach, radishes, and garlic for a fall harvest.
- ☐ **Plant cover crops:** Sow green manure crops like clover, rye, or winter wheat to enrich the soil and prevent erosion.
- ☐ **Plant trees and shrubs:** Fall is the perfect time to plant fruit trees, berry bushes, and other perennials.
- ☐ **Plant bulbs:** Set bulbs for spring-blooming flowers such as tulips, daffodils, and crocuses.

3. Clean and Tidy Garden

- ☐ **Remove spent plants:** Pull out dead or dying plants and add them to the compost pile.
- ☐ **Weed garden beds:** Remove any weeds to prevent them from going to seed and spreading in the spring.
- ☐ **Compost plant material:** Add garden waste to the compost pile to break down over winter.
- ☐ **Edge garden beds:** Clean up the edges of your beds to keep them tidy and free of overgrown grass.

4. Soil Preparation

- ☐ **Test soil:** Check soil pH and nutrient levels to determine if amendments are needed for next season.

- ☐ **Add compost:** Spread compost or well-rotted manure over your garden beds to replenish nutrients.
- ☐ **Mulch garden beds:** Apply a thick layer of mulch (straw, leaves, or wood chips) to protect the soil and retain moisture.
- ☐ **Aerate the soil:** Loosen compacted soil with a garden fork or tiller to allow better water and air penetration.

5. Protect Plants

- ☐ **Protect perennials:** Mulch around the base of perennial plants to insulate roots from cold temperatures.
- ☐ **Cover tender plants:** Use frost blankets or row covers to protect late-season crops from early frosts.
- ☐ **Prune trees and shrubs:** Remove dead or damaged branches to prevent breakage during winter storms.
- ☐ **Move potted plants indoors:** Bring sensitive plants inside or to a sheltered spot to protect them from the cold.

6. Maintain Tools and Equipment

- ☐ **Clean and store garden tools:** Wash tools, sharpen blades, and apply oil to prevent rusting.
- ☐ **Drain and store hoses:** Remove water from hoses and store them in a frost-free location to prevent cracking.
- ☐ **Winterize irrigation systems:** Blow out sprinkler lines or drip systems to prevent freezing.
- ☐ **Service lawnmowers and trimmers:** Clean and maintain garden equipment before storing it for the winter.

7. Wildlife and Pest Management

- ☐ **Set up bird feeders:** Provide food for birds and beneficial wildlife to help control pests naturally.
- ☐ **Clean up fallen fruit:** Remove rotting fruit from the ground to avoid attracting pests.
- ☐ **Discourage rodents:** Clear out dense vegetation near your garden to prevent mice and voles from nesting.

8. Prepare for Spring

- ☐ **Plan next year's garden:** Reflect on what worked and what didn't this year to plan for the next growing season.

- ☐ **Order seeds:** Start ordering seeds for spring to ensure the availability of your favorite varieties.
- ☐ **Start an indoor herb garden:** Bring herbs like parsley, basil, and mint indoors for a winter harvest.



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