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Yard 'n' Garden



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FALL CHORES

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The garden season dictates the sort of things we must do in the fall. Such jobs as storing tender bulbs, cleaning up the garden, preparing the compost pile are essential to good garden practice.

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Careful storage of bulbs can save the gardener many dollars in bulb replacement. Selection, curing and storage conditions are all important to keep bulbs satisfactorily until next spring.

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Gladiolus corms should be cured before storing. Place them on shallow trays or spread them evenly on burlap until the foliage is dried and the outer skin of the corm has loosened. Clean the bulbs at this time. Then place the glads in storage where there is good air circulation and dust with a 5 percent DDT dust to control thrips. The storage temperature should be between 33 degrees to 40 degrees F.

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Dahlia roots should be partially dried and then packed in moist sand or wood shavings. They prefer a cool, moist storage of 40 degrees F. Tuberous begonias can be stored in the pot or they can be removed and stored similarly to the dahlias.

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The fall of the year is a good time to clean up the garden. If you've had disease and insect problems, remove all of the trash and destroy it by burning. At the same time dig the soil to loosen it and destroy any insects which tend to winter over in the garden soil.

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Composting in the fall can provide good source of organic matter next spring. To build the compost pile put the organic material in a 4-foot square. For each 6-inch layer of leaves, add about 1 inch of soil. Along with the soil add 2 to 3 pounds of a complete fertilizer. Keep the center of the pile lower than the edges and water occasionally. Next spring you will have a ready source of organic matter for soil preparation.