



LOOKING AHEAD OCTOBER

WSU COWLITZ COUNTY MASTER
GARDENER PLANT AND INSECT CLINIC
FOR GARDEN QUESTIONS

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FLOWERING PLANTS - Dividing Perennials:

1. General rule of thumb - divide spring and summer blooming perennials in the fall and fall blooming perennials in the spring.
2. Information on dividing perennials: [DIVIDING PERENNIALS](#)
3. Propagating Perennials - [PROPAGATING PERENNIALS](#)
4. OSU Dividing Plants -
<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/news/divide-conquer-plants-keep-them-healthy-productive>
5. Spreadsheet - How to Divide Specific Perennials -
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1S6yqog4CnN_zqwG02uiOo28HT-is_LIP/view



FLOWERING PLANTS - Overwintering Dahlias

- For details: [Digging, Dividing, and Storing Tubers – The American Dahlia Society](#)
- Take stem cuttings from mums, fuchsias, and geraniums to start new plants for next year.
- Dahlias - wait 2 weeks after they die down from the first freeze. Use a garden fork to dig up the tubers. Rinse them with a hose, and let them dry for 2 - 3 days on a wire rack.
- Discard any dead or diseased tubers.
- Divide as described in the article above.
- Store in a moist medium as described in the article - e.g., in moist vermiculite in a plastic bag.
- Temperature should be cool but above freezing - 40°F - 45°F



FLOWERING PLANTS-Overwintering Fuchsias, Begonias, and Geraniums:

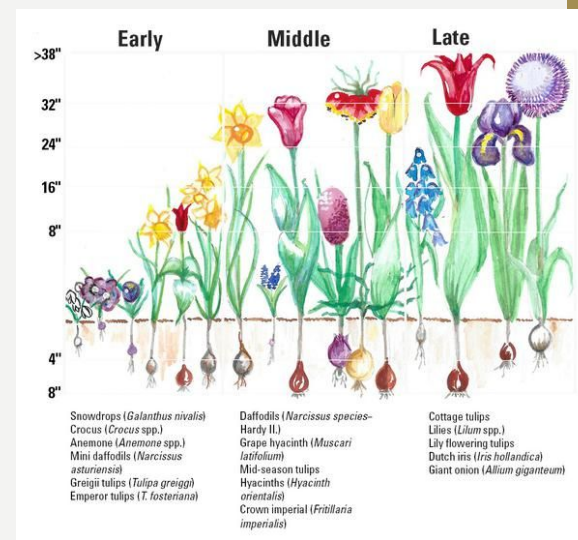
- **Fuchsia:** After bringing them in, gradually cut back on watering them until they enter a semi-dormant state, in which you only water occasionally. Indoor temps of 45° to 55° are best, with indirect light.
- **Fibrous Begonias:** Dig up before killing frost, cutting the stem to 1". Let them dry for 2 weeks, then brush off soil. Place in a box, covered top and bottom with vermiculite or sawdust. Store at 40° to 45°.
- **Geraniums:** Option 1 - Repot in fresh potting soil before the first frost. Cut back the plant by ½. Place in a cool place with indirect light. Water when the soil starts to get dry. Pinch off off as needed.

Option 2 - Place the entire plant in a paper bag and store in a darkened location at 45° to 50°. Each month, soak the roots for 2 hours, then return to storage. Replant in spring.

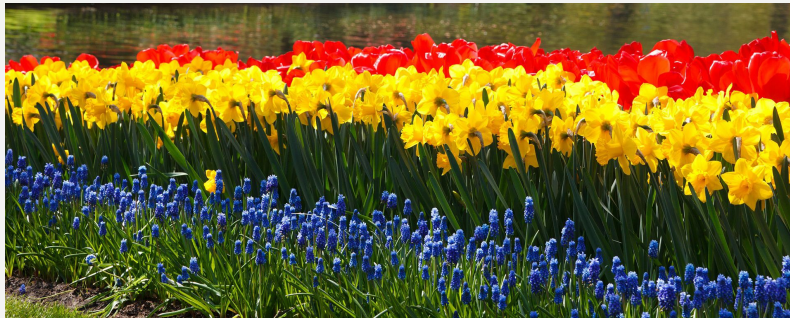


FLOWERS - Plant Spring Bulbs

- Rules of thumb
 - a. Plant bulbs 2-3 times as deep as they are long.
 - b. Always plant pointy side UP!
 - c. Plant in groups for a mass of color.
 - d. Full sun is best.
- Bulbs that naturalize - [Naturalizing Daffodils](#)
- Miniature spring bulb varieties - [Miniature Spring Bulbs](#)
- Forcing bulbs to bloom in winter - [Pickling your Paperwhites](#) and <https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/forcing-bulbs-indoors/>



<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/extension-gardener-handbook/10-herbaceous-ornamentals>



HOUSEPLANTS

- Bring your houseplants indoors well before the first frost. Most houseplants don't like temps below 50° F.
- Give them a thorough rinsing off, and check carefully for insects and diseases.
- Quarantine your plants away from plants that have been indoors, and check frequently to make sure there are no developing insect or disease problems.
- Stop fertilizing from now until March, and cut down on watering, as the plants will not be actively growing again until spring.



<https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/2073/2014/03/Winter-Houseplant-Care.pdf>

https://lancaster.unl.edu/hort/articles/2005/winter_houseplants.shtml

“Christmas” cactus blooming

- It takes 8 weeks to bloom. Plan accordingly.
- To bloom in 65° night temps, the plant must be in complete darkness for 15 hours a day. A closet, black cloth, or black plastic bag may be your best bet.
- Do not fertilize, and allow the soil to get nearly dry before watering thoroughly.
- Christmas cacti like a humid environment. Place the plant on a tray lined with pebbles, and pour water over them to evaporate. Do not let the pot sit in the water.
- Once blossoms appear, carefully move the plant to a location with bright but filtered light.



<https://extension.umn.edu/houseplants/holiday-cacti#pruning-and-growing-cuttings-1431366>

SHRUBS AND TREES - Winter Care

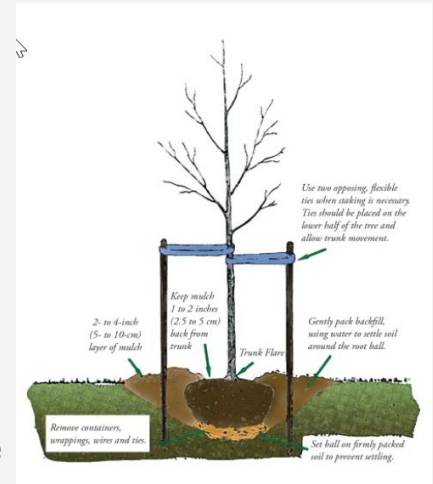
- **Sanitation is critical in reducing plant disease** - clean up plant debris under all trees, shrubs, and perennials.
- Prune off dead, damaged, or diseased branches. Disinfect pruners with Lysol or alcohol between cuts.
- Mulch around plants, but keep about 6 - 8 inches from the base/trunk of the plant.
- Protect the trunks of young trees from winter sun injury. Either 1.) wrap the trunk with white tree wrap or 2.) paint the trunk with a 50/50 mixture of water and white interior latex paint to about 4 ft. high. This will reflect the sun's heat from the vulnerable trunk and help prevent splits.



<https://extension.umn.edu/planting-and-growing-guides/protecting-trees-and-shrubs-winter#sunscald-1263860>

PLANT NEW SHRUBS AND TREES

- Best time to plant! Soil is warm, watering is not a problem, and roots will have months to establish.
- Nurseries are having sales right now!
- Choose the [right plant for the right place!](#)
- [Plant correctly](#)—don't put a \$100 plant in a \$10 hole! Hole should be 2 - 4 times wider than the root ball and slightly shallower.
- Do **NOT** use soil amendments in the planting hole. The only thing that should be backfilled with the plant is the original soil and water.
- To help you choose:
 - WSU—Gardening with Trees and Shrubs
<http://gardening.wsu.edu/trees-and-shrubs/>
 - OSU—Landscape Plants :
<https://landscapeplants.oregonstate.edu/native-and-naturalized-woody-plants-oregon>
 - Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden—Great Plant Picks
<https://www.greatplantpicks.org/plantlists/search>



<https://www.treesaregood.org/treeowner/plantingatree>

FRUITS TREES and SHRUBS

- **Critically important!** Pick all diseased fruit from tree. Pick up all plant debris and fruit from beneath tree as soon as it falls and dispose of it—do not compost. Sanitation can prevent the spread of diseases and insects, such as apple scab, powdery mildew and codling moth.
- **Prune** any diseased, damaged, or dead branches from the tree. Clean pruners between cuts with Lysol or alcohol.
- **Mulch** around the the plant to keep weeds down. Keep the mulch about 8 inches away from the trunk/base of plant.



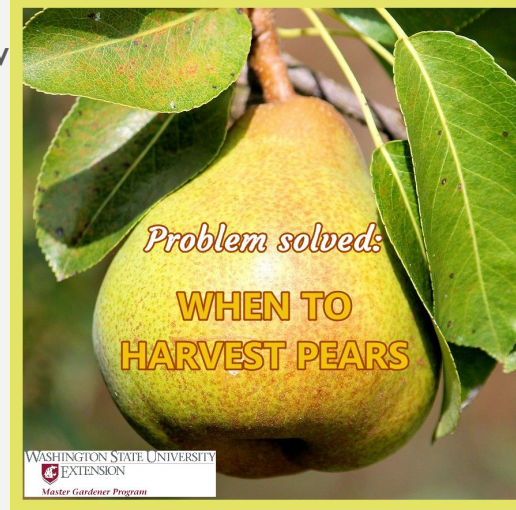
FRUITS: Disease Prevention

Raspberries:

- Cut the canes that had fruit (floricanes) to the ground.
- Secure the new canes that grew this year (primocanes) to your trellis system. They will flower and bear fruit next year.
- Keep them watered--1-1.5 inches per week. Avoid overhead watering.
- **Peaches:** If you had [peach leaf curl](#) or [coryneum blight](#), spray with a fungicide containing chlorothalonil in late October. Start again in January and apply 3 times at three week intervals.
- **Apples:** If you had [anthracnose](#), apply a fixed copper fungicide before the fall rains.
- **Pears:** If you had [pearleaf blister mite](#) or [Pacific pear rust](#) (spring), or [Pear Trellis Rust](#) (mid-late summer) spray with a wettable sulfur product such as Defend DF, or use horticultural oil.
- Fantastic resource: [Managing Diseases in Home Orchards](#)

PEARS: When to Harvest

- **What's the biggest mistake?** Letting the pears ripen on the tree, because they ripen from the inside out! If they "feel" ripe, they are mush inside. So how do they ripen?
- Summer/Fall pears like Bartlett and Orcas ripen in August, and can finish ripening on your counter.
- Winter pears such as Bosc, Comice, Highland, and Anjou are usually ready to pick mid-September through October, and need a resting period in cold storage immediately after harvesting. They won't ripen unless they're in cold storage for 8 - 10 weeks.
- The best indicator of ripeness is the "lift test." Gently lift the fruit horizontally. If it easily breaks away from the spur, it's ready to harvest. If you have to yank it, the fruit isn't ripe.
- Immediately after picking, store unbruised, undamaged fruit in unsealed perforated plastic bags in a cold location—30°F - 32°F. Keep away from ripe fruit, onions or potatoes in storage.
- After cold storage, place the pears you want to eat on the kitchen counter for 3 -10 days to complete the ripening process.



<https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/fs147/html>

<https://extension.wsu.edu/maritimefruit/tree-fruit-harvest-storage-tips/>

SLUGS - Mating Season Alert:

- Mating takes place between September and November.
- Eggs are usually laid in the soil and look like tiny translucent (1/8 to 1/10 in.) pearls.
- Set traps with beer in a shallow pan or place a board where you usually find them, then check under it in the morning and destroy them. Monitor every day for best results in lowering the population next spring. [WSU's Hortsense has more ideas](#), too.
- You also have the option of using a slug killer, but if you do, **use one with the active organic ingredient Iron Phosphate**. AVOID METALDEHYDE products—they are very toxic to pets and birds. Read the directions—more is NOT better. Protect yourself, other creatures, and the environment.



SLUGS--

- This is a list of organic slug bait/killer with iron phosphate that are labeled for use by homeowners in Washington →
- For more information:
- <https://agsci.oregonstate.edu/slug-portal>
- <https://agsci.oregonstate.edu/slug-portal/education/q-questions-and-funnies>



WORRYFREE L/M FERRAMOL SLUG & SNAIL BAIT /ORGANI...	IRON PHOSPHATE (FEPO4)
MONTEREY SLUGGO [27]	IRON PHOSPHATE (FEPO4)
BONIDE SLUG MAGIC MAKES SLUGS DISAPPEAR [109]	IRON PHOSPHATE (FEPO4)
SLUGGO PLUS /ORGANIC GARDENING [57]	IRON PHOSPHATE (FEPO4);SP...
BONIDE BUG & SLUG KILLER [194]	IRON PHOSPHATE (FEPO4);SP...
BAYER ADV DUAL ACTION SNAIL & SLUG KILLER BAIT RTU ...	IRON PHOSPHATE (FEPO4)
BUG-N-SLUGGO INSECT, SLUG & SNAIL BAIT [32]	IRON PHOSPHATE (FEPO4);SP...
BRANDT ANTIXX PLUS ANT & CRAWLING INSECT KILLER [19]	IRON PHOSPHATE (FEPO4);SP...
WHITNEY FARMS SLUG & SNAIL KILLER 1 [1]	IRON PHOSPHATE (FEPO4)
MIRACLE-GRO NATURES CARE SLUG & SNAIL CONTROL [18]	IRON PHOSPHATE (FEPO4)
BAYER ADV NATRIA SNAIL & SLUG KILLER BAIT RTU [127]	IRON PHOSPHATE (FEPO4)
CORRYS SLUG & SNAIL EASY KILL GEL [28]	IRON PHOSPHATE (FEPO4)
WHITNEY FARMS SLUG & SNAIL KILLER [39]	IRON PHOSPHATE (FEPO4)
MONTEREY ANT CONTROL [101]	IRON PHOSPHATE (FEPO4);SP...
LOVELAND LEAF LIFE SLUGGO SNAIL AND SLUG BAIT [317]	IRON PHOSPHATE (FEPO4)
SLUGGO MAXX BRAND [126]	IRON PHOSPHATE (FEPO4)
NATRIA SNAIL & SLUG KILLER BAIT [71]	IRON PHOSPHATE (FEPO4)
NATURAL GUARD BY FERTI-LOME SLUG & SNAIL BAIT [253]	IRON PHOSPHATE (FEPO4)
NATURAL GUARD BY FERTI-LOME BUG, SLUG & SNAIL BAIT...	IRON PHOSPHATE (FEPO4);SP...
ESPOMA ORGANIC BRAND SLUG & SNAIL BAIT [20]	IRON PHOSPHATE (FEPO4)
SLUGGO SLUG & SNAIL BAIT [22]	IRON PHOSPHATE (FEPO4)

Source: <https://picol.cahnrs.wsu.edu/>

Continue to Monitor the Garden:

After planting monitor your plants closely:

Watering needs	Fertilizing needs	Supporting	Nighttime temperatures
Diseases	Insects	Pruning	Leaf discoloring
Leaf distortion	Plant health	Growth	Vertebrate pest damages
Weeding	Mulching	Weather	

Keeping a Garden Log is the best way to track your Success and Problems!

Irrigation

Jul. and Aug. are usually the most crucial times to ensure plants are watered. Tomatoes alone need 1 inch of water per week.

Sep. and Oct. the cooler temperatures are coming back along with the rains so irrigation will not be as critical as the Jul. and Aug. timeframes.

More [Monitoring and Irrigation resources](#)



Extending the Growing Season:

With cooler temperatures coming in September through the rest of the year start to plan on how to extend the production of your garden.

Here are a few great sites that can help you out immensely:

<https://extension.wsu.edu/snohomish/plastic-culture-to-extend-growing-season/>

<https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/files/project/pdf/pnw548.pdf>

<https://extension.umd.edu/hgic/topics/extend-growing-season>

<https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/articles/extending-garden-season/>

WSU Master Gardener Training Manual (Chap 6 & 25).

How to build a hoop house:

<https://www.motherearthnews.com/organic-gardening/low-tunnel-construction-mini-hoop-house>

<https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/files/project/pdf/ec1627.pdf>

From GARDEN to TABLE or FOOD PROCESSOR!

How do you know when to pick your vegetables?

When garden produce is ready to harvest don't hesitate.



Frequent picking encourages more produce in some plants.

- **Onions**-stop watering when the stems turn yellow, and knock them down. They will start their ripening process. Pull them up about 10 days later. Set them out to dry in a well ventilated area until their skins turn papery.
- **Winter squashes** are harvested fully mature when the skins feel hard and waxy. In autumn, there is no hurry to harvest winter squashes unless excessively cold or wet weather is approaching. Pick winter squashes with stems attached. Cure in a warm, dry place and store at room temperature. Under these conditions, winter squashes store between 3 to 5 months.
- **Potatoes** start to die back in late summer or early fall, when the tubers are mature. Stop irrigating after the tops die back naturally or you cut them off. Dig your potatoes approximately 2 weeks after the vines have died back.
- **Garlic** is ready to harvest after the leaves on the lower third of the plant have turned yellow. Remove garlic with stalks intact from soil and place in cool dry ventilated place to dry.
- **Cabbage** should be harvested when the head is small and firm. More mature cabbage can be woody.

When to Harvest Vegetables:

- The links below will help you to determine when to harvest:
 - [When to Harvest Vegetables](#)
 - [Planting and harvesting times for garden vegetables](#)
 - [When to Harvest Fruits and Vegetables](#)
 - [Harvesting Carrots](#)
 - [Harvesting Corn](#)



What To Do With Your Harvest:

- Prepare for the table.
- Processing (Freezing, Dehydrating, Pressure or Water-Bath Canning).



*****ENSURE YOU FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS FOR PROCESSING*****

- [So Easy to Preserve](#) - Purchased through The University of Georgia.
- [Boiling Water Bath Canning \(PDF\)](#)
- [Food Preservation | Snohomish County | Washington State University](#)
- [Recipes](#)



What To Do With Your Harvest:

More links from WSU

[Preserve The Taste of Summer – Online Course | Consumer Food Safety](#)

Preserve the Taste of Summer is a series of eight lessons in a Power Point format that covers all methods of food preservation that you can do at your leisure or all at once. A course that you can do at your own pace in the convenience of your home. The course information is available to you for 365 days from the date you sign up for review.

- Lesson 1: Intro to Food Preservation
- Lesson 2: Canning Basics
- Lesson 3: Canning Acid Foods
- Lesson 4: Canning Low Acid Foods
- Lesson 5: Pickled & Fermented Foods
- Lesson 6: Making & Preserving Fruit Spreads
- Lesson 7: Frozen & Refrigerated Foods
- Lesson 8: Drying Foods

This course is for everyone from the beginner to the advanced canner. The online course is administered by Iowa State University and the cost is \$25.00 for the entire series of lessons.

Composting:

Warmer weather is the best time to start and maintain your compost bins/piles.

Green (Nitrogen) 1 part Some Examples:	Brown (Carbon) 2 – 3 parts Some Examples:
Grass clippings	Shredded paper
Tea/coffee grounds	Straw
Manures	Wood chips
Green leaves	Dried grass and leaves

- Successful composting key points to remember are turning the pile, proper moisture content (especially during the rainy and dry seasons), temperature, aeration, smaller particles the better and good balance of green and browns.
- Compost is used for amending soil, mixing with potting soil, improves soil structure, retains moisture in soil, making compost tea, top dress lawns and the list can go on and on.



More [composting links](#)

Putting your Garden to Bed:



Planning

Mow Low

Mulching

Cover Crops

Tool Repair/Sharpening

Removing Plants

Amending Soil

Lime

Covering Beds

Tool Stowage



https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/four_easy_steps_to_put_your_school_garden_to_bed

<https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/2051/2017/09/Time-to-Put-the-Yard-and-Garden-to-Bed-for-the-Winter.pdf>

<https://pubs.extension.wsu.edu/home-lawns>

<http://pubs.cahnrs.wsu.edu/publications/pubs/fs111e/>



[Putting your Garden to Bed PowerPoint hyperlink!](#)

Lawns:

Lawn care is a classic love/hate scenario. We love it in the spring and fall and hate it in the hot dry summers.

Lawns will seasonally ebb and flow in how they look and perform because of our climate and species selection.

We can help them last and persist through tough times by:

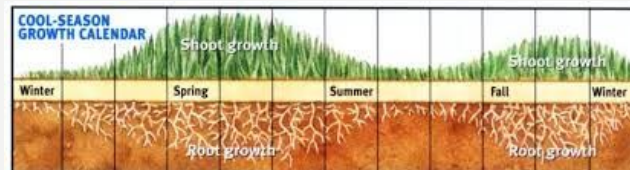
- Properly fertilizing at the right times.
- Encouraging growth when it is most needed.
- Managing weeds. Be aware of Annual Bluegrass [Annual bluegrass](#)
- Reseeding at choice times to rejuvenate the lawn.

Mowing frequency should match rate of growth. Do not remove more than 1/3 of the leaf blade in a single mowing and keep your mower blades sharp.

Aerating helps rejuvenate lawns and loosen soil to promote root growth, not to mention removing thatch annually will increase soil oxygen, water penetration and encourages grass root growth.



Annual Bluegrass (*Poa annua*)
University of MD Extension



[Lawn Links](#)

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Vertebrate Pests:

In the Pacific Northwest there are numerous vertebrate pests that a gardener has to be aware of and plan to deter:

Birds, chipmunks, deer, elk, nutria, opossums, mice, moles, raccoons, rabbits, skunks, voles.

Links for [Vertebrate Pests](#)



October ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Many of the topics covered, especially pruning and pest monitoring, in the last couple months are also relevant in the current month:
 - [Looking Ahead: January](#)
 - [Looking Ahead: February](#)
 - [Looking Ahead: March](#)
 - [Looking Ahead: April](#)
 - [Looking Ahead: May](#)
 - [Looking Ahead: June](#)
 - [Looking Ahead: July](#)
 - [Looking Ahead: August/September](#)

Always choose the **LEAST TOXIC OPTIONS!**

- [SIMPLE, HOLISTIC, COMMON SENSE METHOD OF MANAGING GARDEN PESTS & DISEASES](#)
- [Home Vegetable Gardening in Washington WSU EM057E](#)
- <https://pub.extension.wsu.edu/home-vegetable-gardening-in-washington-home-garden-series> (click on DOWNLOAD NOW)

DIAGNOSTIC RESOURCES

- **Hortsense:** <http://hortsense.cahnr.wsu.edu/Home/HortsenseHome.aspx>
- **Pestsense:** <http://pestsense.cahnr.wsu.edu/Home/PestsenseHome.aspx>
- **PNW Handbooks:**
- **Insect Management** <https://pnwhandbooks.org/insect>
- **Plant Disease Management Handbook:** <https://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease>
- **Weed Management Handbook:** <https://pnwhandbooks.org/weed>
- **WSU Plant Pest Diagnostic Clinics:**
- **CAHNRS Plant Pest Diagnostic Clinic, Pullman**
- **WSU Puyallup Plant & Insect Diagnostic Laboratory**

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