

Eco-Friendly Fall cleanup for Lawns and Gardens

Sustainable fall gardening is an opportunity to reflect on the ways we can care for our environment. By adopting these eco-friendly practices, you not only create a more resilient and productive garden but also contribute to the well-being of our planet.

Leaf Management - Leave some leaves

One of the best gifts you can give to your lawn and garden is to leave some leaves behind.

- Fallen leaves provide natural (free) mulch, helping to insulate the soil for perennials, protect overwintering butterfly and insect larvae and enrich soil as they decompose.
- Consider using a mulching mower to shred the leaves into smaller pieces that will decompose more quickly and add natural fertilizer to your lawn.

Composting - Recycle your yard waste

Don't send your yard waste to the landfill. Leaves and healthy plant debris are an excellent source of carbon for your compost pile.

- Mix them with other compostable materials like kitchen scraps and grass clippings. By composting, you reduce waste and create a valuable resource that can enrich your garden soil.
- Compost on your own or use a local pickup service or recycling facility. Your plants and the planet will thank you!!

What to Remove

- **Diseased or pest-ridden plants:** Clean up the vegetable garden. Pull out blight-affected tomato vines, powdery-mildewed squash, or insect-infested crops and throw them in the trash (do not compost them) to prevent pathogens from overwintering.
- **Slimy or rotting foliage:** Cut back messy, water-logged perennials like Hostas that turn into a soggy mess over the winter.

What to leave behind

- Hollow stems that provide winter shelter for native bees and beneficial insects.
- Seed heads like (echinacea, Black eyed Susans and ornamental grasses) to feed the birds.