

# NORTHWOODS YARD & GARDEN

Weekly Column

November 4, 2024

## November in the Yard & Garden

November typically is cloudy, cold, and the transition from fall to winter. Accordingly, the garden calendar is limited and focuses mainly on last minute winter preparation, as discussed here over the past month or so.

Mild October conditions have resulted in most lawns still growing into November. One final mowing may be necessary, as mowing should continue until growth stops. The final cut does not need to be significantly shorter than usual. Rake up (or grind up with mower) any remaining leaves so lawns approach winter without being covered with lots of debris.

November is the month for winter mulching, but not quite yet. Winter mulches are intended to prevent alternating freezing and thawing of the soil, which is destructive to herbaceous perennial plants. Perennials, strawberries, and asparagus should be completely dormant before mulched and ideally the ground would be starting to freeze. Play it by ear and adjust timing as the weather unfolds, but usually wait on applying winter mulches to these plantings until about Thanksgiving.

The same holds true if using cones to protect roses. Rose protection should also be a late November activity. Make a few holes in the tops of cones for ventilation. Rose cones primarily help protect from drying winter winds and sun.

Still have some spring flowering bulbs to plant? It's not too late but act now. Bulbs should overwinter in the soil to start rooting and get their required cold treatment to bloom next spring. Also, if you have not already done so now is the time to dig up summer bulbs such as gladiolus, caladium, and cannas.

There is still time to work on amending garden soil. Working in organic matter helps improve all soils. If a soil test has shown the pH to be excessively acid, limestone can be worked in to raise the pH. Conversely, sulfur can be added to lower pH or make soils more acidic. Do not add either one without first knowing the pH from a soil test.

Finally, November is a great time to inventory, inspect, and clean all gardening tools and equipment before storing to get a head start on 2025. Power equipment may have specific long-term storage procedures outlined in the owner manual. At the same time, get out the shovels, scrapers, and roof rakes so they are ready for the first big snow. Finally, get out the snow blower and test it now so it fires right up when needed; that time is approaching fast!

Interested in learning more about Horticulture in Iron County?  
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