OCTOBER - NOVEMBER

Plant Your Bulbs

- Begin the process of leaf removal throughout the garden.
- Begin planting your bulbs (Daffodils, Tulips, etc) as these bulbs need the cold winter months to prepare for spring blooms. Read the package for directions on the depth of planting as it is specific for the bulb you have chosen.

Notes:

DECEMBER - JANUARY

Frost Protection

- Inspect vulnerable plants and ensure they are properly mulched for insulation.
- Have frost cloths, burlap, or protective covers (not plastic) ready for unexpected freezes.
 - Group potted plants in sheltered areas to protect them from frost and wind.
 - Use plywood or other barriers to shield plants from snow sliding off roofs.
- Monitor the weather forecast and be prepared to act quickly during hard freezes.

Notes:



FEBRUARY

Assess Your Garden

- Walk through your garden and evaluate its current state.
- Identify damaged plants and prune dead or broken branches.
- Snap photos to track your garden's transformation.

Clean Up the Garden

- Remove debris, such as fallen leaves and branches.
- Weed thoroughly to eliminate competition for nutrients.
- Trim back perennials and shrubs to promote healthy growth. In USDA zones 7-12, this can be done anytime during February-April, while in zones 1-6, it's best to wait until April.
- Add organic matter to your compost pile.
- Apply pre-emergent herbicides to prevent weeds.
- Fertilize with a balanced mix to promote lush greenery. In colder zones, wait until March to apply fertilizer.

MARCH

Revive Your Lawn

Dethatch and aerate the lawn to encourage new growth. In warmer zones, complete this task in March, while in colder zones, wait until April.

Test and Prepare the Soil

- Use a soil testing kit to check pH and nutrient levels.
- Amend soil as needed with compost, aged manure, or quality bagged soil.
- Aerate compacted areas for better water and nutrient absorption.

Mulch for Protection

- Top-dress garden beds with a fresh layer of mulch.
- Use fluffy long leaf pine needles or shredded bark for insulation and moisture retention.
- Keep mulch a few inches away from plant stems to prevent rot.

Plan for Irrigation

- Check irrigation systems for leaks and make necessary repairs.

 Adjust timers to account for spring rainfall.
- Consider installing rain barrels for sustainable watering.

APRIL

Assess Your Garden

- Continue monitoring your garden for any damage or signs of pests.
- Take note of bare spots that need new plantings.
- Identify areas where late-spring plantings can be added.
- Begin planning for summer garden enhancements.

Plant for Success

- Add early bloomers like pansies and violas in cooler zones.
- In warmer zones, focus on heat-tolerant annuals like petunias, vincas, begonias and more.
- Plant summer tubers and bulbs such as dahlias, lilies, and gladiolus for late-season color.

Revive Garden Beds

- Re-edge garden beds for a crisp, clean look.
- Check mulch levels and add fresh mulch if necessary to retain moisture and reduce weeds.

Attract Pollinators

- Introduce flowering plants like lavender, milkweed, and salvia to attract bees and butterflies.
- Consider planting flowering shrubs or small trees for a longer-lasting impact.

Lawn Maintenance

- Mow your lawn regularly as it begins to grow more actively.
- Fertilize with a nitrogen-rich fertilizer to support healthy growth.
- Address any bare patches with overseeding or sod.

General Maintenance

- Inspect irrigation systems to ensure everything is functioning properly as temperatures rise.
- Clean birdbaths, garden ornaments, and pathways to freshen up your outdoor space.



MAY

Add Finishing Touches

- Edge garden beds and pathways for a polished look.
- Incorporate garden decor, such as birdbaths and sculptures.
- Install solar lights to highlight your garden's beauty after sunset.

Bonus Tips

- Set up a garden journal to track progress and plan for future seasons.
- Schedule regular walks through your garden to spot issues early.
- Celebrate your hard work by sharing photos with friends and family.

Notes:

