

FALL CLEAN UP TIPS: November 12, 2014, from Jeanne Nevard

Fall is the best time to put your gardens to bed.

1. WEED, weed, weed! It will lessen the weed seeds that will take over next season, giving you a clean slate for spring.
2. After weeding, cut herbaceous perennials back to the ground, this will remove litter and lessen diseases and pests. Try a hedge clipper, and follow with a pruner.
3. Mound up mulch such as hay or bark mulch around roses- but keep mulch 2-3 inches away from the stems.
4. Continue to water deeply until the ground freezes. A good rule of thumb is 1 inch of water per week from rainfall or hose watering.
5. After frost, you can apply "Wilt Pruf" on rhododendrons & prized evergreens to prevent winter die back. It will seal in moisture.
6. Mulch leaves with lawnmower & store in heavy plastic bags. Chopped leaves are valuable as a light mulch & soil amendment.
7. Leave ornamental grasses & seed heads for winter interest and for the birds, especially coneflower & other wildflowers.
8. Lime and compost and put your gardens to bed!
9. Sit back & know that you have enhanced your gardens by this annual maintenance.
10. Winter is a great time to dream about future gardens & changes to your gardens. Gather garden catalogues & sketch out options.

BEWARE OF TICKS! This is the season they are active- in addition to the spring. Wear long sleeved shirts and a hat, sprayed with repellent. Remove clothing and inspect for ticks or throw clothes in the dryer for 20 minutes to kill them. Thoroughly inspect for ticks on your body, use a hand mirror reflecting in a bathroom mirror. Ticks can pass on Lyme & other diseases in as little as 1 hour!

For more information go to: [_www.LymeDiseaseAssociation.org_](http://www.LymeDiseaseAssociation.org)

(<http://www.lymediseaseassociation.org/>) , & [_www.ilads.org_](http://www.ilads.org)(<http://www.ilads.org/>).

These precautions can save you a lifetime of ill health