



Button up your garden checklist -- 2019

Prepare your garden for a seamless spring planting by following a few fall housekeeping tips.

Δ Harvest your vegetables

- ▲ All vegetables can be harvested as they mature.
- ▲ Carrots, cabbage, squash, potatoes can survive the first frost if you have the option of leaving them in your garden. They will be sweeter (not potatoes).

Δ Pull old plants out of the garden

- ▲ If you wait until the first frost they will be easier to pull, take up less space and compost faster. **DO NOT PUT DISEASED PLANTS IN YOUR COMPOST.** That only spreads disease. Insect eggs will hatch in the spring if not separated from your garden beds.

Δ Feed your garden with compost and manure

These soil amendments are commonly used to adjust the consistency and content of garden soil:

- ▲ Bark, ground: made from various tree barks. Improves soil structure.
- ▲ Compost: excellent soil conditioner that adds nutrients. May also lower soil pH.
- ▲ Leaf mold: decomposed leaves that add nutrients and structure to soil.
- ▲ Lime: raises the pH of acidic soil and helps to loosen clay soil.
- ▲ Manure: best if composted. Good conditioner.
- ▲ Peat moss: conditioner that helps soil retain water and can lower soil pH.
- ▲ Sand: improves drainage in clay soil.
- ▲ Topsoil: usually used with another amendment. Replaces existing soil.

Δ Collect leaves/yard debris for the compost pile, discard diseased foliage

- ▲ Cottonwood and most common North Dakota tree leaves need to be ground up with the mower before using as mulch.
- ▲ If you put them on whole, they will create a non porous barrier and never decompose.