



## OCTOBER

### **Tips to help with TREES & SHRUBS, ANNUALS & PERENNIALS:**

- Don't put your hose away quite yet. Evergreens continue to need moisture, so keep them watered until the ground freezes.
- Once leaves have fallen from deciduous trees and shrubs, they are safe to be transplanted to a new location, if required.
- Compost any remaining annuals that have finished blooming or growing.
- Cut back your perennials to discourage overwintering pests, but consider leaving flowers and grasses with seeds for the birds to feed on through the winter.
- Mulch your garden beds as added protection for your plants. You can use any of the decorative bark mulches we sell or use leaves from your yard. This will help to stabilize soil temperatures and prevent early or late winter freeze/thaws from damaging your plants.

### **Tips to help with PONDS:**

- Continue to feed your fish with high quality, easily digested, wheat germ based cold weather food, but in smaller amounts. Stop feeding when water temperatures dip to 10 °C because fish metabolism slows and they cannot digest food properly.
- All tropical plants should be removed from the pond and continue to trim other pond plants back as needed.
- Keep your pond clean and free of debris by covering it with netting. Add beneficial bacteria, such as Microbe Lift Autumn/Winter Prep to sustain biological activity and help maintain good water quality.
- It is usually best to remove all of your pumps, clean and store them as per the instructions for your type of pump.
- For your fish to survive the winter in your pond, you will need to maintain a hole in the ice for gas exchange. Aerators oxygenate the water and may keep a hole open, but we recommend the Aquascape 300w De-Icer.

### **Tips to help with FRUITS, VEGGIES & HERBS:**

- Some frost protection may be gained by covering tender plants with fabric row covers.
- Harvest winter squash and pumpkins before frost. For best storage quality, leave an inch or two of stem on each fruit.
- Place wire guards around trunks of young fruit trees for protection against mice and rabbits.
- Plant your garlic for next season.

### **Tips to help with LAWNS:**

- The fall is often a good time to treat hard to kill weeds. Use Wilsons Lawn Weed Out Ultra.
- Rake up your leaves to prevent them from smothering your lawn and providing a home for molds that can affect your lawn in the spring. You can mulch mow leaves however, which provides a great organic fertilizer for your lawn.
- Keep cutting your lawn until it stops growing, but not if it has frost on it. If you haven't fertilized yet this fall, now is the perfect time. We recommend Nutrite 10-0-15 Fall Lawn Food

### **Tips to help with HOUSEPLANTS:**

- All house plants should be brought in by now.
- Spring bulbs for forcing can be potted up and stored in a cool, frost-free place until it is time to bring indoors.
- If you don't have houseplants, consider adding some this winter. Several varieties of houseplants absorb chemicals found in your home's air, such as formaldehyde, benzene, toluene, acetone and ammonia. Plants also convert carbon dioxide into oxygen and sugars.

Clean and fill your bird feeders, so birds have a regular food source. Bird baths in the winter are bird magnets.