

A publication of Wilson Nurseries, and Wilson Landscape Supply, Inc.
Hampshire: 847-683-3700 *Fax:* 847-683-3977 *Volo:* 815-344-0944 *Fax:* 815-344-7087

Gardening Calendar: November



There's one good thing about snow: it makes your lawn look as nice as your neighbor's.

- Clyde Moore

November signals the winding down of Fall, and the entrance of Winter. Most of the leaves are down, perennials and roses have finished blooming, and the chilly days and nights are here to stay for a while. Nature is slowly putting things to bed for a long nap. The occasional balmy days provide the perfect opportunities to set up holiday displays, hang lights, and take care of other gardening chores:

- Finish planting bulbs for next Spring's garden. Make sure Summer (tender) bulbs are dug up and stored in a cool, dark area after first frost.
- Continue to water broadleaf evergreens, and young or newly planted trees, shrubs and roses until the ground freezes.
- Add burlap and stake plant guards around broadleaf evergreens after adding extra mulch around the plants and spraying with an anti-desiccant.

Leave 3-4 inches of gap between the ground and the bottom of the burlap for air circulation. Secure the stakes into the ground about 6-12 inches to anchor the screening.

- Cut the dead foliage of perennials back to within 4-5 inches of the ground. In the case of grasses and other plants with interesting flower and seed heads, leave on plant for Winter interest.
- Continue to keep bird feeders full. With a steady supply of suet and seed, you'll have lots of Winter visitors!
- Late November is a good time to start pruning leaf-bearing trees and shrubs. The leaves are gone and so it is easy to determine the desired form of the plant.
- Take some time to clean, repair and sharpen garden tools.

Pruning Primer 101

Proper pruning enhances the beauty of almost any landscape tree and shrub. Like any other skill, it requires knowing what you are doing to achieve success. Pruning is the removal or reduction of certain plant parts that are not required, that are no longer effective, or that are of no use to the plant. It essentially involves removing plant parts to improve the health, landscape effect, or value of the plant.

Pruning should follow a definite plan. Consider the reason or purpose before starting to cut. By making pruning cuts in a particular order, the total number of cuts is reduced considerably. First remove all dead, broken, diseased or

problem limbs by cutting them at the point of origin or back to a strong lateral branch or shoot. Often this is all that is required.

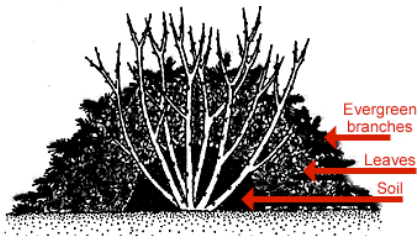
The next step is to make any training cuts needed. By cutting back lateral branches, the tree or shrub is trained to develop a desired shape.

For more information, log in to:

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/extension/pruning/pruning.html> or
http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/howtos/ht_prune/prun001.htm



Winter Protection for Roses:



Many of the roses which are classified as old garden roses are extremely tolerant of cold temperatures, as are shrub and rugosa roses. Hybrid teas however experience considerable damage. Budded roses are more likely to get injured or die than ones that are on their own root. Bottom line: choose your roses wisely! Select roses that are able to tolerate the coldest temperatures in your area based on USDA hardiness zone maps.

Be sure your roses go completely dormant. Stop fertilizing early enough so growth slows down. Do not apply fertilizer after August 15. To further encourage dormancy, stop deadheading and cutting flowers after October 1 and allow the plant to form hips.

While there are many ways to protect your roses in the Winter, the whole idea is to keep the plant uniformly cold and frozen all Winter, and prevent the damaging effects of freezing and thawing. Do not begin covering plants too early! Wait until a hard killing frost

has caused most of the leaves to fall. Prior to covering, remove any foliage or other debris that could harbor disease for the next season.

Some taller roses may need to be pruned a little to reduce their height, but pruning should be kept to a minimum. You want the plant to have the maximum size possible to take into the Winter.

The most common way to protect is to pile or 'hill-up' a loose, well-drained soil/ compost mix around and over the plant to a depth of about 10-12 inches. While other materials may be used, it is essential that they drain well. After the soil mound has frozen it can be covered with evergreen boughs, hardwood leaves, or straw to help insulate and keep the soil frozen.

For more:

<http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/roses/winter.html>

A man walks into a flower shop "I'd like some flowers please."

"Certainly, Sir. What did you have in mind?"

He shrugs "Well I'm not sure, I uh, I uh, I uh..."

"Perhaps I could help. What exactly have you done?"