

2005 FALL CHORES CHECKLIST

- ◇ Plant trees, shrubs & perennials: cooler temperatures & more reliable rainfall give plants lots of time to establish strong roots before the ground freezes
- ◇ Plant spring & summer bulbs; check planting depths; use plant markers so they can be identified next year
 - ◇ Get a jump-start on 2002 by cutting new beds & turning sod - you'll be ready to plant next spring
- ◇ Compost grass clippings & fallen leaves on spent vegetable gardens-layer with a slow-release fertilizer to beef up depleted soil & take advantage of the warm autumn & winter sun; be sure to rotate crops
 - ◇ Protect trees, shrubs & especially shallow-rooted perennials with a 3" layer of mulch — shredded wood preferred (bagged or bulk aged 6 months or more.)
 - ◇ Lower mower setting to prevent snow mold on lawns
 - ◇ Use vinyl tree guards to protect tree trunks from rutting deer & chewing rodent damage
 - ◇ Divide & plant daylilies, irises & peonies
- ◇ Rake & remove leaves to control diseases such as black tar spot on maple & black spot on roses
 - ◇ Do not prune or fertilize sensitive plants such as clematis & roses after early September to minimize new growth & harden plants off before winter.
 - ◇ Use a trellis to secure vines before winter; use cones on wind-sensitive azaleas & roses; for larger shrubs try a 3-sided fence of burlap, especially to protect road-salt sensitive plants
 - ◇ Clean water gardens, remove pump & cover with netting to keep leaves out; decomposing leaves deplete oxygen, killing off over wintering goldfish
- ◇ Plant asters & mums to brighten your garden with glowing fall colors ranging from gold to purple
- ◇ Pot up some herbs to create a kitchen window garden full of low-cal flavor for your cold-weather meals
 - ◇ Lift canna lilies, dahlias, begonias from ground; trim foliage, air-dry for several hours before placing tubers in peat moss to over winter in a cool, dry place
- ◇ Begin dormant feeding trees, shrubs & lawns around Halloween, when plants are no longer actively growing; roots, however, will continue to grow strong & build plant vigor until the ground freezes!

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