

We're Here to Help!

Did you know that, in Colorado, Fall is the perfect time for planting? Chiller nights cause the soil to cool down, however, our warm days prevent the soil temperature from dropping too low. This allows vigorous root development prior to dormancy.

With supplemental water during Fall and Winter, plants added in autumn will be substantially larger when they emerge in the spring than those purchased and installed at that time. As you move thru your season end gardening chores and see bare spots, know that this is a wonderful time to improve your landscape with trees, shrubs, perennials, or bulbs.

Come see us also for Fall-themed decorations. A hay bale or two and some pumpkins and gourds will round out a beautiful fall garden. We also offer bundled corn stalks with, and without decoration.

**For assistance, stop
by Phelan Gardens.
We are open seven
days a week.**



Open Year-Round
7 days a week

4955 Austin Bluffs Parkway
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Fall Garden Maintenance



Phelan Gardens

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Fall Gardening To Do List

General Maintenance

- Winterize sprinkler systems and disconnect garden hoses. (but keep a hose handy for watering throughout the winter!)
- Clean and sharpen tools—including the lawn mower blade
- Empty and clean garden pots
- Gather pinecones for the holidays
- Take note of changes you'd like to make to next year's garden
- Winterize your pond or water feature (for detailed instructions, see our "Winter Pond Maintenance" brochure)

Trees and Shrubs

- Wrap young deciduous trees (2" caliper or under 3 years) with tree wrap
- Rake and dispose of Aspen leaves to help prevent the spread of inkspot (fungus) Other non-diseased leaves can be raked and used as mulch or added to compost
- Relocate late flowering shrubs that need to be moved after first light freeze
- Remember to water trees and shrubs at least once a month during the winter!!!

Lawn Care

- Apply winterizer fertilizer to the lawn in mid-October—2 lbs. Nitrogen/1000 sq ft
- Remove or spray perennial weeds, such as dandelions and thistle
- Prevent annual weeds from going to seed by mowing or spraying before they flower
- Aerate in early Fall
- Water well before freezing temperatures set in and then 1-2 times/month in winter

Roses

- Stop fertilizing after mid-August
- Don't prune or deadhead after the last flush of fall flowers—generally six weeks before the first killing frost. Average is *October 10th in downtown Colorado Springs.*
- Continue watering during the autumn
- Avoid transplanting
- Insulate the plants by mounding each with 12" of soil around the crown early to mid-fall—mulch after the ground freezes solid, usually after several nights of temperatures around 20 degrees
- Use rose collars for ultimate protection

Note: climbing roses need special protection because of their upright position—you can wrap them with burlap or other insulating material as well

Perennials

- In early fall, prune overgrown plants for shape and a chance for secondary blooms. (*Artemesia, Jupiter's Beard, Catmint, Threadleaf Coreopsis*)
- Remove dead stems and spent flower heads to encourage repeat blooms. (*Coneflower, Salvia, Shasta Daisies, Bee Balm, Veronica*)
- Trim up ground covers if they have outgrown their space (*Snow-in-summer, Iceplant, Thyme, Sedums*)
- Stop fertilizing in August
- Mulch perennials no more than 2" high Leave 2"–3" open at the base of your plants to discourage fungus and rot
- Grasses: cut back to within 3" of the crown in late November or leave them until Spring to create winter interest
- Water all perennials and grasses planted this year at least twice a month during the winter months. Their roots have not yet adhered to the soil. A new perennial is not likely to survive its first winter without supplemental water.

- Many perennials benefit from being divided every 3–5 years. About 6 weeks before a hard freeze, lift, divide and relocate plants that have: **dead growth in the center, poor flower production, or have outgrown their allotted space.** The rule of thumb is to divide spring and summer perennials in fall, and fall blooming perennials in early spring

We offer the following suggestions for transplanting perennials:

- 1) Soak plants deeply prior to lifting from the ground
- 2) Avoid lifting plants in the heat of the day
- 3) Prune back stems of plants approximately 6' from ground level
- 4) Lift the parent plant using a pointed shovel or garden fork
- 5) If the center of the plant rarely shows any new growth, divide the perennial into sections using a sharp knife and replant the healthy outer sections only
- 6) Identify the best method of division by looking at your plant's root system. For example, an overgrown iris rhizome should be cut cleanly into smaller, healthy sections and re-planted with the top of the rhizome slightly above soil level. A thick clump of daylilies, on the other hand, is best separated using two garden forks back to back with each new piece having at least one, preferably more, "eyes" or growth nodes for successful re-establishment. Many ground covers can simply be cut into sections and replanted