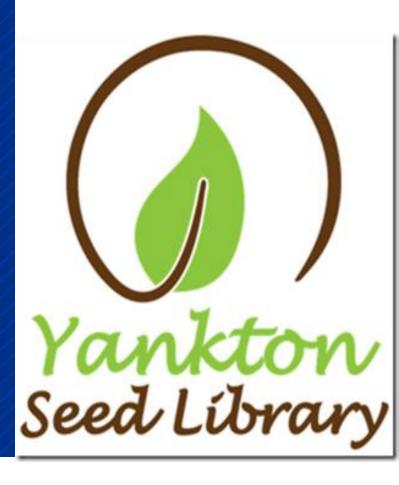




Finishing Strong

October 2019



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In cooperation with Missouri Valley Master Gardeners







Getting a Jump Start on Next Year





 protect anything that winter might destroy, including garden pots, art and tender perennials.

Those Bunnies





 protection against mice and, a little higher up, rabbits by wrapping a cylinder of quarter-inch mesh hardware cloth, 2 feet high and pressed an inch into the soil to discourage burrowing

Roses





- keep roses dormant, prevent growth on those strange warm days in winter
- plant deep when you have new plants
- mound soil, leaves and heaver material to hold everything in place

Divide and Transplant





- fall is the time to divide mature, early flowering perennials or transplant them to other parts of your garden
- If it blooms in spring or summer, divide and transplant in fall
- If it blooms in fall divide or transplant in spring or summer
- Ideally, allow six weeks before the ground freezes so the roots can settle in

Save Tender Perennials for Next Year



- tender perennials require extra care to survive the winter months
- includes some bulbs, tubers, corms, zonal geraniums, begonias, and tender herbs

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Overwinter Bulbs

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ringing him to life is son's crustiness hero nse of duty lovable to with "Downton" re

- dig Up after first frost, when foliage is dying back
- clean up remove any signs of distress or disease or rotting – cut out bad parts of bulbs and tubers..
- dry / cure takes days or weeks, depending on bulb type.
- store in cool, dark place above freezing, can be in a box of sand or tray of peat add wire mesh to keep mice out
 - Preferred storage temperatures vary with each bulb type, depending on tenderness of bulb

Plant Spring Bulbs





 the optimum time to plant bulbs in fall is when the soil is 60F or cooler but before first frost

Late Winter Bulbs



Snowdrop



Glory of the Snow



Spring Blooming







- Alliums
- Tulips
- Crocus
- Daffodils
- Hyacinth









9-74

Dead and decaying plants & seed pods are essential food & habitat for life in your garden.

Let It Bee

The Secret to a Healthier Garden



Winter survival of birds, bees, butterflies, other insects, & microbes depends on them.



Do protect tender perennials and decor.



But, unless diseased, pest-infested, or invasive, leave the rest until late spring.



Let nature do what it does best.

Fall 'mess' nurtures spring life.

Empress of Dirt

Leave It Until Spring





• When cleaning things up, it's important to remember it's a garden, and it relies on living things, a garden comes to life when we relax and let nature live, die, and decay.



 but do get rid of everything that shows signs of disease

Leaves





 leaves add physical layer of organic materials above ground, provide food, shelter, and nesting or bedding materials to a variety of wildlife overwintering protection for a number of insects, all of which work together to contribute to a healthy yard

Leaves feed the soil





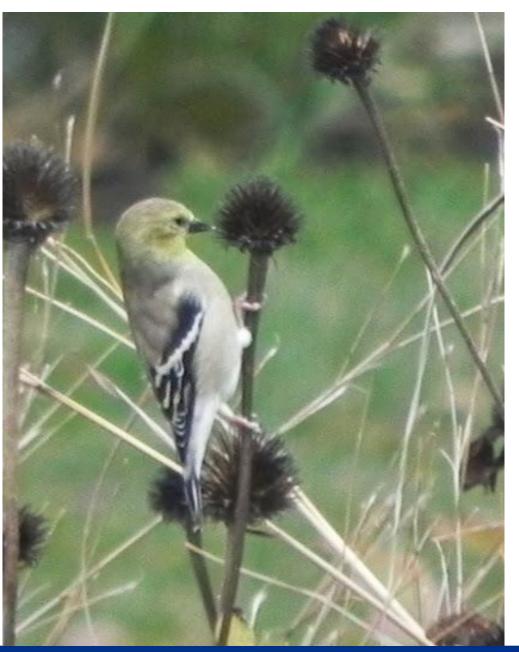
- the soil itself is also benefits from fallen leaves, they composted over time into nutrients that feed the soil
- leaves feed a vast number of microbes in the soil, which all plant life in your yard depends on

Leaves on the Lawn





- excessive leaf matter on your lawn going into winter is bad it will smother the grass it will inhibit spring growth
- it can promote the snow mold diseases
- turf damage from critters (voles, mice) can be more extensive in the spring
- makes messy snowmen
- clean up with mulching mower and save for your compost pile







Maintaining Your Tools

Clean tools:

- Last longer
- Work better
- Prevent transmission of diseases, insect eggs & weed seeds



Keep clean





In contact with soil:

- Hose off after every use to remove all soil
- Scrub with hard bristle brush if necessary
- Dry with cotton rag

No soil contact:

 Wipe with cloth dampened with paint thinner



Remove & Prevent Rust

- Sand with 80 grit sand paper or brush with wire brush
- Wipe with a mixture of motor oil to kerosene (2:1 ratio)



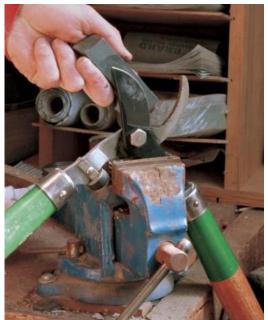


Sharpen for efficiency

- Use hand mill file for large tools
- Draw teeth in one direction following bevel on tool's blade

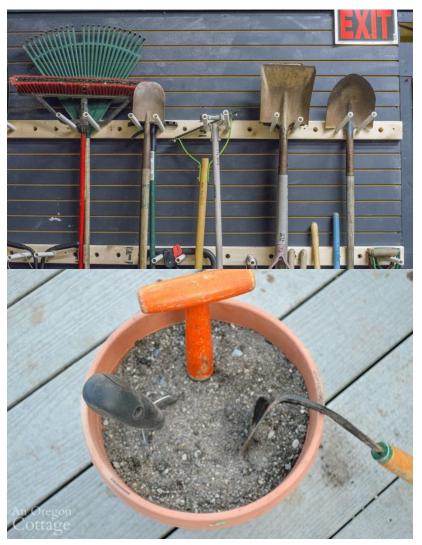


- Use oiled honing stone for small tools
- Slide flat surface over blade in one direction



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Store well





- Hang tools on wall of storage shed or garage
- Store small tools in bucket of oily sand
- Rub wooden handles with linseed oil or wood protection oil
- Lubricate pivot points on pruning tools