



Home Garden Tips: Fall and Winter

There is plenty to do in your home garden during the fall and winter months. Check out these tips from the ABQ BioPark.



The end of October is a good time to dig and divide perennial plants.

- Dig up your perennials and gently cut them. Replant.
- Apply a high phosphate fertilizer such as bat guano, bone meal or blood meal to give your beds a boost.

Don't go overboard with fertilizers and compost.

- Remember that a little goes a long way.
- If you use compost, mix in a little sand to help your soil breathe.

Don't cut back... yet.

- Don't cut any of your plants back until February or March. This will help protect the plants to help them endure cooler temperatures.
- Plants like forsythia, flowering almonds, lilacs and winter jasmine are best left to prune in the late spring after they have finished flowering.

Fall is a great time to plant and/or relocate your spring bulbs.

- Try tulips, daffodils, alliums, Spanish bluebells, grape hyacinth, red crown imperials, crocus.

It's also a good time to plant hardier shrubs, perennials and trees.

- Planting trees in summer makes it harder for them to set their roots. An autumn planting will result in lower transplant shock.

Add some bark to your flower beds before winter.

- This can help protect your plants for colder weather.

Keep (at least some of) the leaves.

- Rake leaf matter and put it in planted beds to act as mulch. Over the winter, it will break down and help feed the soil.

Cut back your irrigation, but do keep watering.

- Try less frequent, but deeper waterings.

Get free mulch.

- Each winter, the City of Albuquerque offers Christmas tree recycling to residents. The recycling process creates mulch, which is free to residents.
- Bring your own bag, bucket and shovel.