

## October 2008

- Clean and paint greenhouses and cold frames for plant storage and winter growth.
- Harvest sunflower heads; use seed for birdseed or roast for personal use.
- Dig and store potatoes; keep in darkness, moderate humidity, temperature about 40°F. Discard potatoes that sprout. Do not use as seed potatoes for next year.
- Recycle disease-free plant material and kitchen vegetable and fruit scraps into compost. Do not compost diseased plants unless you use the “hot compost” method (120° to 150°F).
- *Western Oregon*: Harvest squash and pumpkins; keep in dry area at 55° to 60°F.
- Harvest and immediately dry filberts and walnuts; dry at 95° to 100°F.
- Ripen green tomatoes indoors. Check often and discard rotting fruit.
- Harvest and store apples; keep at about 40°F, moderate humidity.
- Spray stone fruit trees to prevent various fungal and bacterial diseases. Use copper fungicides. Obtain a copy of *Managing Diseases and Insects in Home Orchards (EC 631)* from your local Extension office.
- Place mulch over roots of roses, azaleas, and rhododendrons for winter protection.
- Place hanging pots of fuchsias where they won't freeze. Don't cut back until spring.
- *Central/eastern Oregon*: Water your plants deeply every 6 to 8 weeks to prevent drying out.
- *Central/eastern Oregon*: Dethatch your lawn and follow with a nitrogen fertilizer application.
- Trim or stake bushy herbaceous perennials to prevent wind damage.
- *Western Oregon*: Check/treat houseplants for disease and insects before bringing indoors.
- Pot and store tulips and daffodils to force into early bloom in December and January.
- Early October: Begin manipulating light to force Christmas cactus to bloom in late December.
- Store garden supplies and fertilizers in a safe, dry place out of reach of children.
- *Western Oregon*: If weather permits, spade organic material and lime into garden soil.
- Cover asparagus and rhubarb beds with a mulch of manure or compost.
- Propagate chrysanthemums, fuchsias, and geraniums by stem cuttings.
- Remove and dispose of windfall apples that might harbor apple maggot or codling moth larvae.
- Monitor landscape plants for problems. Do not treat unless a problem is identified.
- *East of the Cascades*: If soil analysis indicates a pH below 6.0, apply lime to your Kentucky bluegrass lawn (50 lb lime/1,000 sq ft).
- Rake and destroy diseased leaves (apple, cherry, rose, etc.).
- Clean up annual flower beds; mulch with manure or compost.
- Dig and divide rhubarb. (Should be done about every 4 years.)
- *Western Oregon*: Treat for moss on roofs during dry periods.

- Dig and store geraniums, tuberous begonias, dahlias, gladiolas.
- Control lawn weeds while they are small.
- Take care of soil drainage needs of lawns before rain begins.
- Place mulch around berries for winter protection.
- Save seeds from the garden. Dry, date, label, and store.
- Plant ground covers and shrubs.
- *Western Oregon*: Fertilize lawn for last time this year.
- *Central/eastern Oregon*: Prune evergreens.
- Trap moles and gophers.
- Clean and oil tools and equipment before storing for winter.
- Plant garlic for harvesting next summer.