

31 DAY Fall garden challenge

PLANTING & HARVESTING IN THE GARDEN

- 1. Remove spent summer annuals and replace them with fall blooming plants.
- 2. Plant bulbs for spring blooming like tulips, daffodils, and crocuses.
- 3. Divide and transplant perennials that have outgrown their space.
- 4. Plant cover crops like clover, rye, or winter wheat to improve the soil.
- 5. Harvest the last of your summer veggies and herbs and remove spent plants.
- 6. Plant a fall veggie garden with cold crops like kale, carrots, spinach, and lettuce.
- 7. Plant spring-flowering shrubs like forsythia and lilac.
- 8. Plant trees and shrubs in the fall when cooler temperatures help roots to grow.
- 9. Plant bulbs for indoor forcing, like amaryllis or paperwhites, for winter blooms.
- 10. Create a container garden with fall-bloomers like ornamental kale and chrysanthemums.
- 11. Plant garlic bulbs to establish a nice harvest for next summer.
- 12. Bring sensitive plants indoors, like your lemon trees and other citrus or tropicals.
- 13. Dig up and bring in tender perennials like dahlias to overwinter indoors if needed.

SOIL ENRICHMENT & BED PREP

- 14. Remove any weeds from your garden beds to prevent them from going to seed and spreading.
- 15. Clean up fallen leaves from your yard and add them to your compost pile.
- 16. Remove any diseased or insect-infested plants from your garden to prevent it from spreading.
- 17. Take a soil sample and send it to a lab for testing, then add any needed amendments.
- 18. Build a cold frame to extend your fall gardening season and protect plants from cold temps.
- 19. Build a compost bin to turn fallen leaves and other yard waste into nutrient-rich compost.
- 20. Add compost or mulch to your garden beds to prepare them for winter.

CLEANUP & MAINTENANCE

- 21. Clean and store garden statues, pots, fountains, and other items that could be damaged.
- 22. Drain and store garden hoses and watering cans to prevent damage from freezing temps.
- 23. Clean out your greenhouse or indoor growing area to prepare for winter plantings.
- 24. Clean out birdhouses and feeders to prepare for winter bird watching.
- 25. Extend the season - install frost protection for plants that may suffer cold damage.
- 26. Clean and sharpen garden tools, and store them in a dry place for winter.
- 27. Trim back overgrown hedges and bushes to keep them from getting too large.

PLANNING & BRAINSTORMING

- 28. Walk through your garden and write down what worked well and what you want to improve.
- 29. Make a list of the plants you want to add to your garden next year and research sellers.
- 30. Attend a fall gardening workshop or class to learn new skills and techniques.
- 31. Celebrate the end of gardening season with a fall harvest feast featuring your own veggies.