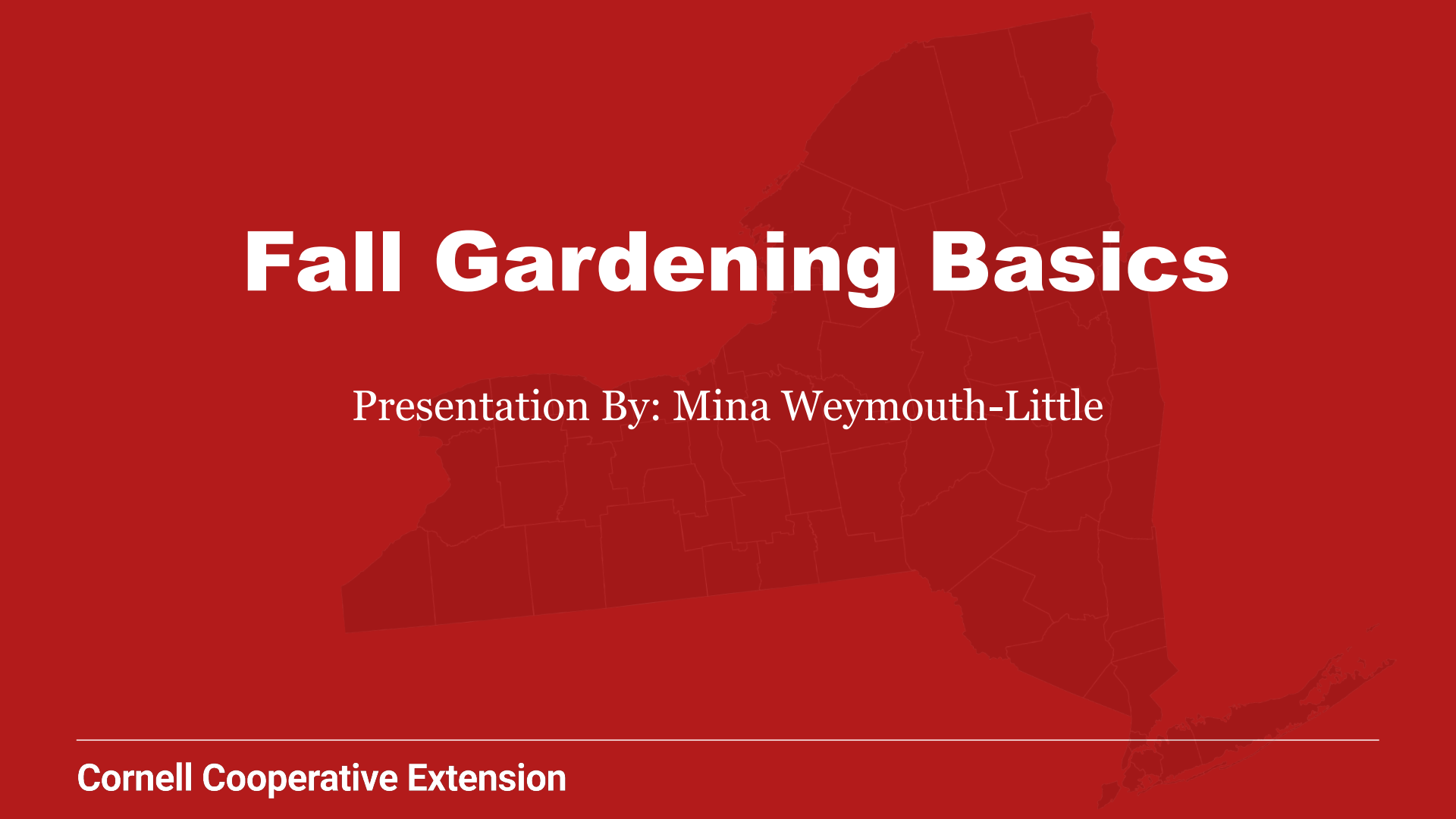




Fall Gardening Basics

Presentation By: Mina Weymouth-Little

Contents

- The Benefits of Gardening
- Defining Fall
- Putting Your Garden To Bed
- Pruning
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- Bulb Planting
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The Benefits of Fall Gardening



University of New Hampshire

The Benefits Of Gardening In The Fall

Get a jump on Spring chores! Get as much done in the Fall in order to get a good crop during our short Adirondack growing season.



American Diabetes Association

Let's Define “Fall”



Michigan State University

When is Fall?

When average daytime temperatures range from 55°F to 65°F and nighttime temperatures dip below 55°F **consistently**.



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Putting Your Garden To Bed



Iowa State University Extension

Flowers

- Cut back sparingly, as the leaves and stalks of plants can help wildlife species that make use of some plants in the winter for food and habitat.
- Remove and discard any diseased top growth, and leave healthy seed heads.



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Flowers Cont.

If you want to cut back your flower garden, here is a guideline of what to do:

- Cut back *most* perennials.
- Cut all the green foliage off irises towards the beginning of fall.
- Cut back Christmas ferns and rose foliage closer to the end of fall.



*Cornell Botanical Garden
Go Finger Lakes*

Flowers Cont.

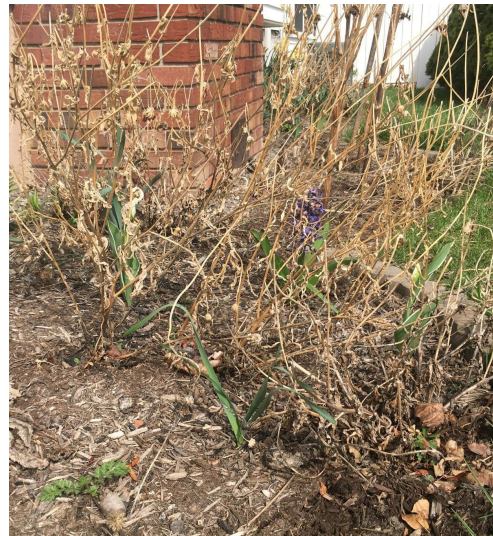
- Leave the stems on hardy mums and Japanese painted fern to help protect them over the winter.
- **Do not cut back perennials** with basal rosettes of foliage, like coral bells, or those with semi-woody stems, like lavender, rosemary, and various sages.



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Vegetables

- *Pull all* the dead vegetable plants.
- If they were not diseased, they can go in the regular compost pile (if you compost).
- Diseased plants should be disposed of; check with your local municipality or waste hauler for specific guidelines regarding packaging and accepted materials.



Cornell Edu Blog

Soil

- If the soil isn't too wet, *incorporate the old mulch* with a spading fork or rototiller.
- Do not *ruin the soils tilth* by compacting it when it is too wet, wait until it is this pictured dry crumbly texture.



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Trees

- Protect the bark of the trunks of young trees, especially fruit trees and their ornamental relatives like crabapples, from rodent, rabbit, and deer feeding damage.
- Use either *cages of hardware cloth or plastic spiral trunk protectors*.



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Trees Cont.

- Some varieties of young trees will require *wire cages* to prevent deer browsing on branches and buds.
- Young trees of all kinds with tall bare trunks may also be damaged by deer behavior. If this has happened, cut off the shreds of damaged bark to make a clean-cut wound.



Oklahoma State Extension

Weeding

- **WEED!**
- Weeds will be near perennials and veggies.
- Many of these may be hardy weeds, which live all winter and go to seed in spring.
- *Pull them up now* while they are small and save time from weeding next spring.



Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program

Leaves

Although fallen leaves may seem like a nuisance, they can be used as a mulch or soil amendment.



University of New Hampshire

Leaves Cont.

- *Rake up and compost or discard the leaves.*
- Composting leaves recycles nutrients, and the compost can be used to improve soil health in the coming season.



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Leaves Cont.

- *Mulch the leaves in place with a lawn mower.*
- This cuts down on labor and returns nitrogen to the soil as the chipped leaves decompose.
- This must be done several times throughout the season for it to be effective.



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Leaves Cont.

- Leaves work as mulch for annual, perennial, and vegetable gardens if they are chipped into small pieces.
- A thick layer of chipped leaves can suppress weeds and conserving soil moisture.



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To Prune or Not To Prune



Maine University Extension

Pruning

- It is almost always best to wait to prune trees and shrubs until late winter or early spring.



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Pruning

- Pruning in the Fall often causes dieback at the pruning sites.
- New growth at wounds is far more susceptible to damage from the severe winter temperatures we experience in the Adirondacks.



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Pruning

- By waiting to prune until late dormant season (February to early April), gardeners help plants to avoid a number of physiological and disease issues.



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Pruning

- Trees and shrubs are less likely to become infected by pathogens, such as fire blight, when they are dormant.
- This is because disease causing agents such as bacteria and fungi are inactive during the winter.



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Winterizing Gardening Materials



Fairfax County Master Gardeners

Water Systems

- Make sure to winterize any water fixtures.
- Irrigation valves, pipes, and other components could become damaged as the water remaining inside expands as it freezes, so flush them out.
- Flush out any hoses and make sure they are shut off and disconnected for the season.



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Garden Tools

- Hedge shears, pruning saws, loppers and hand pruners: Clean, sharpen, and oil before storing.
- Shovels, rakes, hoes, and other hand tools: Clean with soap and water before storing.
- Re-sharpen any tools with blades.
- Re-sharpen lawn mower blades.



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Plant Your Bulbs



Alabama State University Extension

Bulb Planting

- Spring flowering bulbs, such as lilies, tulips, daffodils, hyacinth, and crocus, should be planted in the fall after the soil has cooled but before the ground freezes.
- *As a rule of thumb, plant bulbs 3 to 4 weeks before the ground freezes.*



Cornell Blogs

Bulb Planting

- *Plant bulbs 2 to 3 times as deep as the bulb is tall.*
- Plant small bulbs, such as crocus, snowdrops and hyacinth, 3 to 4 inches deep.
- Larger bulbs such as daffodils and tulips should be planted between 6 and 8 inches deep.



Iowa State University

Lawn Care



University of Maine

Lawn Care

- Gradually mow your grass down lower and lower, starting at 4-3.5 inches. *For the last few mows of the season (Late October- Early November), mow the lawn 1 ½ to 2 inches down.*



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Lawn Care

- Make sure to do any lawn soil amendments and fertilization that needs to be performed in the fall specifically.



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Resources

- <http://www.gardening.cornell.edu/homegardening/>
- <https://essex.cce.cornell.edu/gardening>
- <https://ccetompkins.org/gardening/home-gardening/publications/fall-cleanup-q-a>
- <https://extension.unh.edu/blog/2018/10/putting-garden-bed>
- <https://extension.usu.edu/yardandgarden/research/putting-the-yard-and-garden-to-bed>
- <https://extension.unh.edu/blog/2017/10/winterizing-your-garden-tools>

Resources

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