

# Winterizing Tips

## IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

- ✓ Check your irrigation system and faucets for leaks. A hole just 1/16th of an inch in diameter in a hose or irrigation line can waste 25,000 gallons of water a month. A faucet that is dripping at the rate of 90 drops a minute can waste 288 gallons a month. The Regional Water Providers Consortium's website has information and how-to videos on finding and fixing leaks. [www.conserveh2o.org](http://www.conserveh2o.org).
- ✓ If you have an in-ground sprinkler system, check to make sure the sprinkler heads water your plants and lawn and not the sidewalk or street. That's water down the drain!
- ✓ Protect built-in sprinkler systems: drain the system, insulate the valve mechanisms.

## DRAINAGE ISSUES

- ✓ Treat mossy roofs during dry spells. Mossy lawns may need improved drainage, possibly an application of lime (do a pH test to confirm). Lilly Miller's Moss Out can control existing moss on roofs, walkways and lawns.
- ✓ During heavy rains, watch for drainage problems. Berms, swales and French drains are all possible solutions. Consider a rain garden or bioswale as a sustainable, long-term solution.

## PROTECTING AND PRESERVING TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

- ✓ Clean and oil your lawn mower, service as needed.
- ✓ Clean and sharpen tools before storing for winter.
- ✓ Drain and store hoses before freezing temperatures arrive.

## PUTTING LAWNS TO BED

- ✓ If the lawn is frozen, stay off of it
- ✓ Apply lime to lawns
- ✓ Control lawn weeds while they are small

## YARD SANITATION AND PEST CONTROL

- ✓ Yard sanitation: rake leaves, cut and remove withered stalks of perennial flowers, mulch flowerbeds, hoe or pull winter weeds.
- ✓ Continue to suppress your slug population with traps or baits. Sluggo is all natural and safe to use around edibles, pets and kids. Also try our new, natural spray, Liquid Slug & Snail Away.
- ✓ Check for rodent damage around bases of trees and large shrubs
- ✓ Rake and compost leaves that are free of disease and insects

## PROTECTING LANDSCAPE PLANTS

- ✓ Protect new plantings as necessary. Frost cloth or row covers are easy to use and offer tender plantings a degree of winter protection. Wind can also be a damaging force; use stakes to tie-up plants, provide windbreaks and/or apply a product like Wilt-Stop to help retain moisture during extreme weather.
- ✓ Make sure that plants in sheltered or protected sites receive adequate water. Especially vulnerable are container plants, green house/cold frame plants and areas under deep eaves. Be sure new plantings and evergreens are well-watered before cold weather arrives.

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- ✓ Protect tender evergreens from drying wind by spraying an anti-transpirant product like Wilt-Stop.
- ✓ Mulch your garden beds after a frost. We love to use Black Forest as our mulch of choice.
- ✓ Turn compost piles and cover to protect from heavy rains
- ✓ Spread wood ashes evenly to vegetable garden. Use no more than 1.5 lb/100 sq ft/year. Do not use if the soil pH is greater than 7.0 or if potassium levels are excessive.
- ✓ Protect new landscape plants from wind: staking, guy wires, windbreaks, site selection
- ✓ Prune roses to "knee-high" to prevent winter damage
- ✓ Renew mulch around perennial flower beds after removing weeds
- ✓ Place mulch of manure over dormant vegetable garden area. A 3- to 4-inch layer of leaves spread over the garden plot prevents soil compactions by rain.
- ✓ Place mulch over roots of roses, azaleas, rhododendrons for winter protection
- ✓ Place hanging pots of fuchsias where they won't freeze. Don't cut back until spring

## OVER-WINTERING INDOORS

- ✓ Check/treat houseplants for disease and insects before bringing indoors
- ✓ Monitor houseplants for adequate water, fertilizer, humidity. Water and fertilizer requirements generally are less in winter. Over-watering damage may be corrected by Oxygen Plus