

Garden Calendar

(provided by Cornell Cooperative Extension, Putnam County)

November

- Inspect viburnum twigs for viburnum leaf-beetle damage. Egg-laying under the bark of twigs will cause notched and raised patterns on the bark, easily spotted when branches are bare. Prune out these egg-laying sites, bag up the twigs and discard them in the trash, not in the compost pile.
- Continue to water new trees and shrubs up until the ground freezes. Evergreens suffer less winter-burn if they go through the winter with their “reservoirs” full. Use a spray-on anti-desiccant on broad leafed evergreens to protect them from winter winds. These chemicals must be applied before temperature drops below forty degrees.
- Use your mower to mulch fallen leaves directly into lawns. Studies show that this is a great fertilizer and lawn-disease suppressant! Be sure to pick up sticks and large twigs before running the mower over leaves.
- Before the ground freezes: mark driveway with snow-stakes and put in stakes for deer fencing. You can always string up the fencing later, but you will be glad to have those stakes in place.
- Finish clean-up of garden beds. Remove leaf debris. Meadow and pine voles are fond of perennial and ornamental grass roots. When provided with the cover of fallen leaves and debris, these rodents escape their natural predators and devour the root systems right out from under plants. In years with heavy snow-cover, damage from meadow and pine voles can be extensive, as their browsing can go on unchecked beneath the snow. The bark of fruit trees and ornamental trees may also be attacked.
- Empty and roll up hoses. Clean and store garden tools. Move work gloves and garden twine indoors to protect them from mice. Store grass seed in an air-tight, mouse-proof container.
- Take a moment to make note of what worked in your garden this year, and what you want to do next year. A simple spiral notebook, hanging in your garden shed can be used from year to year, providing you with a place to jot down your successes and failures, to stick receipts and plant tags. When the notebook is full, you will have a wonderful, candid record of your time in the garden.