

Gardening Tips for November 2011

Brr ' I don't know about you, but I am feeling the chill! We had our furnace checked out Friday and it's ready for the winter. Not sure I am though. Planted five Knockout roses, moved an azalea, several dianthus, lilies, and pansies' Friday and Saturday while Jim vacuumed leaves and carried them to a special spot in the back yard. That's an everyday chore this time of the year. Funny thing, Friday digging the holes for the roses was a chore because the ground was so dry and hard like concrete while Saturday was a breeze because of the little bit of rain over night that soften the soil. Glad that is behind me now.

We've a lot to do before it really gets cold, so let's get started with raking the leaves regularly from newly planted fescue lawns. Be sure to remove the acorns, sweet gum balls, pine cones, and such from the ground also. Right now is the best time to plant your spring flowering bulbs since the ground is getting cooler. Be sure to add fertilizer into the soil as you are planting them. Dig out Caladiums, elephant ears and dahlia bulbs while you can still find them in the soil. You can fertilize fescue lawns for the second time, again in February and again in April.

You'll need to trim back chrysanthemums and asters to about four inches from the ground after the flowers fade. Rake out leaves and replace the mulch under dogwoods to prevent disease next year. Freshen the flower beds by removing dry stems and dead leaves. Make sure to change the mulch under the shrubs, trees and perennials. Don't forget the birds....fill your bird feeders with black oil sunflower seeds.

Don't forget to fertilize pansies, snapdragons, cabbage, and dianthus again now. Another important thing to do is to prepare your composting area for the leaves and kitchen waste. This action makes great soil blending in the spring for both your old and new plants. (saves you money too!) Remember to water your newly sod Bermuda grass regularly at this time too.

If you have Boston fern, you can divide them into thirds and plant into three baskets now, hang them in a sunny window and by spring you will have three new Boston Ferns for next summer. I have so many now that I am running out of space!

You can still plant shrubs and trees now while there is still time for some root growth before the ground freezes. If you have climbing roses you will need to tie them up so the cold winter winds won't damage them. Remember you still need to water your pansies weekly especially if in pots or containers. Watch out for chickweed, wild violets, and onions. Spot spray them now or dig them out.....or you'll regret it come springtime

Encourage each other to better our property and pitch in to help each other when possible. Give praise when a neighbor makes an effort to improve their place!

CHEERS to those Country Walk neighbors who are working in and on their yards making them prettier and looking better! Makes you feel better and it's good for the neighborhood! Believe me I notice it and it makes me proud of you!

You can see me playing in my yard most days, so want you come play in the dirt with me.....

Ann Taylor

PS Have a wonderful Thanksgiving Country Walk!