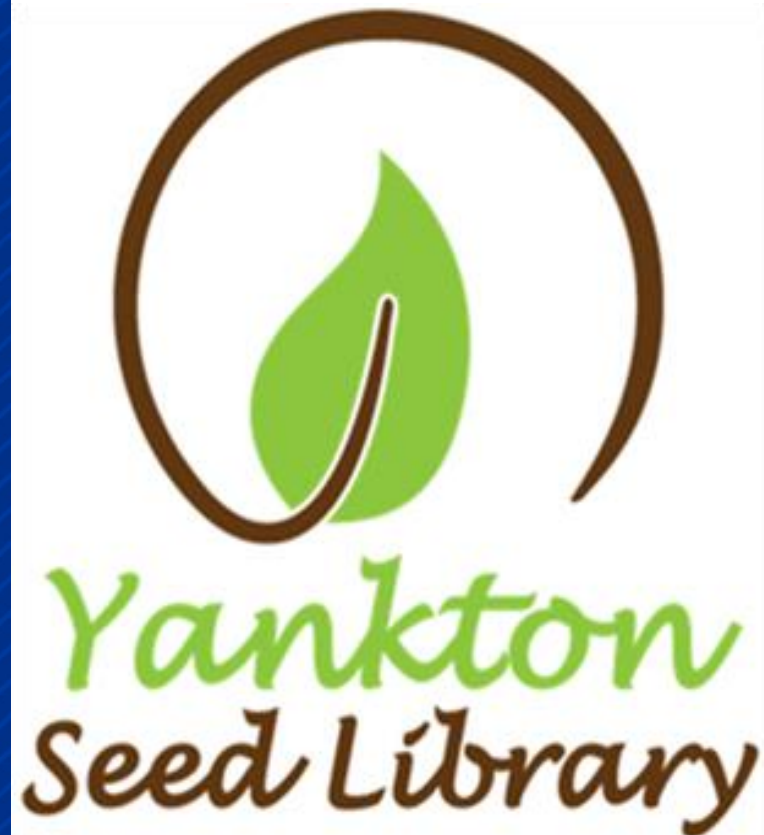


Finishing Strong

October 2019



In cooperation with Missouri Valley Master Gardeners



Getting a Jump Start on Next Year



- protect anything that winter might destroy, including garden pots, art and tender perennials.

Those Bunnies



- protection against mice and, a little higher up, rabbits by wrapping a cylinder of quarter-inch mesh hardware cloth, 2 feet high and pressed an inch into the soil to discourage burrowing

Roses



- keep roses dormant, prevent growth on those strange warm days in winter
- plant deep when you have new plants
- mound soil, leaves and heaver material to hold everything in place

Divide and Transplant



- fall is the time to divide mature, early flowering perennials or transplant them to other parts of your garden
- If it blooms in spring or summer, divide and transplant in fall
- If it blooms in fall divide or transplant in spring or summer
- Ideally, allow six weeks **before the ground freezes** so the roots can settle in

Save Tender Perennials for Next Year



- tender perennials require extra care to survive the winter months
- includes some bulbs, tubers, corms, zonal geraniums, begonias, and tender herbs

Overwinter Bulbs



- dig Up after first frost, when foliage is dying back
- clean up remove any signs of distress or disease or rotting – cut out bad parts of bulbs and tubers..
- dry / cure takes days or weeks, depending on bulb type.
- store in cool, dark place above freezing, can be in a box of sand or tray of peat add wire mesh to keep mice out
- Preferred storage temperatures vary with each bulb type, depending on tenderness of bulb

Plant Spring Bulbs



- the optimum time to plant bulbs in fall is when the soil is 60F or cooler but before first frost

Late Winter Bulbs

Snowdrop



Glory of the Snow



Spring Blooming



- Alliums
- Tulips
- Crocus
- Daffodils
- Hyacinth



Let It Bee

The Secret to a Healthier Garden



Dead and decaying plants & seed pods are essential food & habitat for life in your garden.



Winter survival of birds, bees, butterflies, other insects, & microbes depends on them.



Do protect tender perennials and decor.



But, unless diseased, pest-infested, or invasive, leave the rest until late spring.



Let nature do what it does best.

Fall 'mess' nurtures spring life.

Empress of Dirt

Leave It Until Spring



- When cleaning things up, it's important to remember it's a garden, and it relies on living things, a garden comes to life when we relax and let nature live, die, and decay.



- but do get rid of everything that shows signs of disease

Leaves



- leaves add physical layer of organic materials above ground, provide food, shelter, and nesting or bedding materials to a variety of wildlife overwintering protection for a number of insects, all of which work together to contribute to a healthy yard

Leaves feed the soil



- the soil itself is also benefits from fallen leaves, they composted over time into nutrients that feed the soil
- leaves feed a vast number of microbes in the soil, which all plant life in your yard depends on

Leaves on the Lawn



- excessive leaf matter on your lawn going into winter is bad it will smother the grass it will inhibit spring growth
- it can promote the snow mold diseases
- turf damage from critters (voles, mice) can be more extensive in the spring
- makes messy snowmen
- clean up with mulching mower and save for your compost pile



Maintaining Your Tools

Clean tools:

- Last longer
- Work better
- Prevent transmission of diseases, insect eggs & weed seeds



Keep clean



In contact with soil:

- Hose off after every use to remove all soil
- Scrub with hard bristle brush if necessary
- Dry with cotton rag

No soil contact:

- Wipe with cloth dampened with paint thinner

Remove & Prevent Rust

- Sand with 80 grit sand paper or brush with wire brush
- Wipe with a mixture of motor oil to kerosene (2:1 ratio)



Sharpen for efficiency

- Use hand mill file for large tools
- Draw teeth in one direction following bevel on tool's blade
- Use oiled honing stone for small tools
- Slide flat surface over blade in one direction



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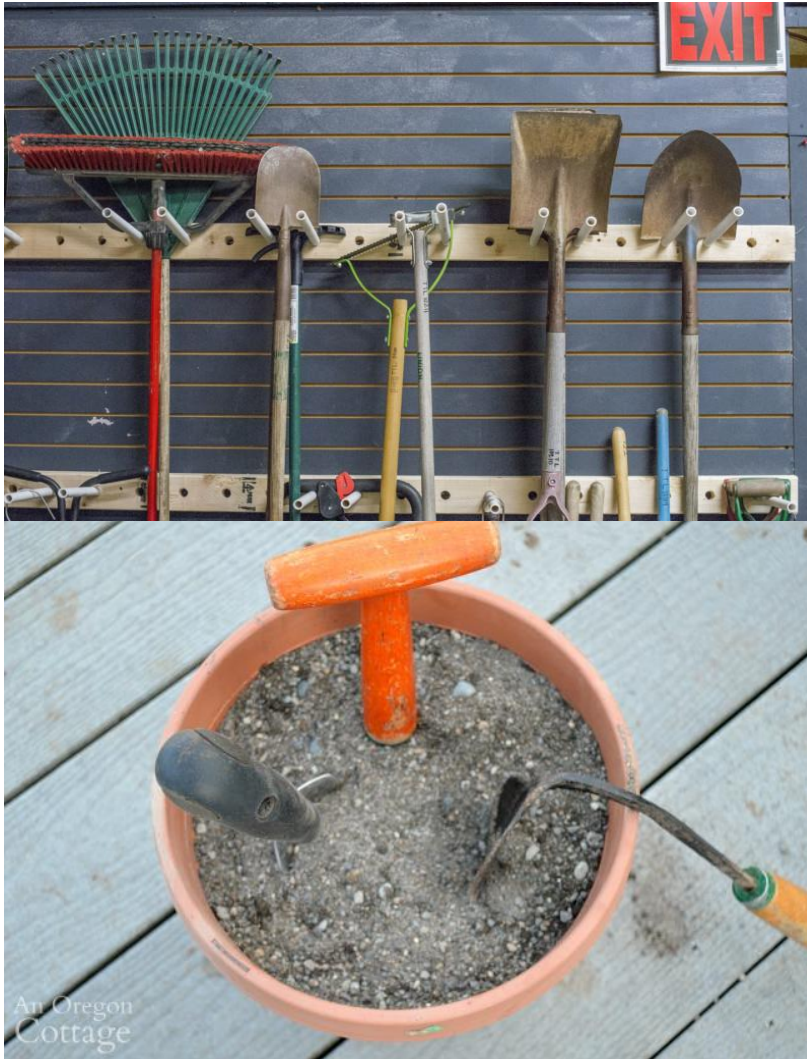
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Store well



- Hang tools on wall of storage shed or garage
- Store small tools in bucket of oily sand
- Rub wooden handles with linseed oil or wood protection oil
- Lubricate pivot points on pruning tools