



Marchie's Nursery

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IT'S TIME TO WINTERIZE!!

Just as you bundle up to protect yourself from the elements of winter, your outdoor plants also need protection. Here's how to protect your yard and garden against Jack Frost.

ROSES

The first thing you should do is rake the leaves away from your rose bed to help prevent disease in the spring. Spraying with dormant oil will help prevent disease and kill insects and/or their eggs. If you have *Hybrid Tea*, *Grandiflora*, *Floribunda*, or *Mini roses*, cut these back to knee height. Mound 6" of mulching material, (Eko, soil pep, peat moss, etc.), at the base of the plant. You can also use healthy leaves, straw, and rose cones or collars for added protection. You will also mulch *climbing roses*, but do not cut these back! The new growth in the spring comes from the previous years canes. To protect these canes, lay them down if possible, and insulate with straw and burlap. If you are unable to untangle the canes from the trellis, wrap burlap around the canes, or use **Wilt Pruf**. **Wilt Pruf** is an anti-transpirant that reduces moisture loss in plants. *Shrub roses* are very hardy and just need mulch added to the base of the plant for added protection. We have tried many methods with *Tree roses*, and the one with the best results is digging a trench and laying the tree rose in the trench on it's side. Cover the tree rose with soil or mulch at least 6" deep. **All roses need water during the winter to stay healthy and keep from drying out.** If there is no rain or snow for a couple of weeks, you may need to water. We recommend piling the snow from your driveway or sidewalk around your plants. Snow is your best insulator and will also help to keep your plants from excessively drying out.

LAWNS

Give your lawn one last good watering, mowing, and raking before winter sets in. Use a **fall lawn fertilizer** to help build strong roots and cold-hardiness, which enables grass to come in quicker and greener in the spring.

RHODODENDRONS

The most important step that you can take to have a rhody survive a "Montana" winter, is where you plant it. Pick an area that is protected from the wind and sun. Both of these elements will intensify as winter settles in. Also be aware that the big deciduous trees, such as maples, will lose their leaves in the fall and not provide winter protection from the sun.

Rhody's require at least one last good soak before the ground freezes. Mulch around the plant with soil pep or other mulching material to help retain moisture. Wrapping a rhody with burlap and spraying it with **Wilt Pruf** will also help with dehydration. **Do not wrap a rhody or any other plant with plastic!** Also if we have no rain or snow, you may need to water from time to time.

BULBS/TUBERS

Callas, cannas, dahlias, gladiolus, and begonias will not winter in the ground in Montana. Dig these bulbs after the first killing frost. Do not wait until the plant is completely dead because the bulb can be damaged. Remove the foliage 2" from the crown and gently brush the soil from the roots. Spread the bulbs out to dry, **but not in the direct sun**. Trim off the dead or damaged tubers. Dust with bulb dust to prevent rotting and disease during storage.

Glads can be infected by an insect called thrips. To control for this insect, soak glads in insecticidal soap and warm water for 30 minutes before dusting. Store glads dry in a cardboard box or paper sack. Store cannas, dahlias, and begonias moist in vermiculite in a cardboard box or paper sack. Check these bulbs during the winter, and mist if needed. Store boxes/bags in a cool, dry area.

TREES and SHRUBS

In order to discourage late growth, avoid the use of high-nitrogen fertilizer and heavy pruning in the fall. Thin out trees and large shrubs to prevent breakage during winter storms. Protect thin-barked and newly planted trees by wrapping with tree wrap to prevent sun scald and animal damage. You can also use the corrugated plastic tree guards. If deer are a problem, using fencing or repellents may help to deter them. Spraying with a dormant oil in the fall or spring will help to reduce insect infestations.