



In the Garden

Quarterly Newsletter

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Winterizing the Garden

Brightly colored leaves against dark clouds and a shiver from the chill when we step outside signal a change in the seasons. I recently dug my warm sweaters out of storage, and keep my parka and rubber boots near the door so am ready for winter's onslaught of rain and cold. Now is the time to prepare the garden for winter also.

A few simple measures can protect pots, fountains and marginally hardy plants from damage caused by freezing temperatures. Of course, the best protection for pots and fountains is to bring them under cover, but not all of us have the necessary space, and some items are simply too big to move.

Protecting Flower Pots

I move my smaller pots into a shed and put my large pots up on "feet" in winter to maximize drainage. It is the expansion of freezing water in a pot that causes it to crack so preventing a build up of water can make all the difference. Little clay feet for pots are available for a couple of dollars each in garden centers. I use three feet per pot. Broken bricks would work as well as long as the pot is lifted off the ground and the drainage hole is not blocked.



My "survivor" water pot in milder weather.

Protecting Fountains & Basins

Winterizing fountains is a little trickier. Keeping the pump running offers some protection as well as giving the year around enjoyment of trickling water in the garden. Running water is less likely to freeze.

The last couple of winters I have put a partly deflated rubber ball in my large water pot, so there is some 'give' for water expansion in freezing temperatures. So far my pot has made it safely through 2 winters filled with water and apparently frozen solid at times.

Protecting Marginally Hardy Plants

Some of the plants that benefit from extra protection are dahlias, fuchsias, melianthus, cannas, and abutilon. When I get our Christmas tree, I always pick up extra fir boughs to lay around tender plants in my garden. The advantage of using boughs is that they offer protection from freezing temperatures while still allowing good drainage. Water logging can be as much a threat to plant survival as freezing during our wet winters. I also add an extra couple of inches of compost over the roots of tender plants, carefully keeping it away from the crown to prevent rot.

Upcoming Local Events

In winter the lovely “bones” of these special gardens are more visible plus their serenity is undisturbed because few visitors venture out in colder weather.

Portland Chinese Classical Garden

www.portlandchinesegarden.org

NW 3rd and Everett,
Portland, OR 97209
503.228.8131

Hours: Nov.–March, 10am –5pm
Admission: General \$7, Seniors \$6,
Students \$5.50. Free to children 5 and under

Japanese Garden

www.japanesegarden.com

Hours: Oct. 1 – March 31
Tuesday – Sunday: 10am – 4 pm
Mondays 12 - 4
Adults \$6.75
Seniors \$5.00 (62 & over)
College Students \$5.00
Students (6-17) \$4.00
Children five and under are free

Stone steps and path at Japanese Garden



To do list for late Fall/Winter:

- Winterize pots and fountains (*see article*)
- Mulch tender plants (*see article*)
- Cut back by half the messy looking perennials in key areas *if you need to*, but leave most until end of Feb. This provides protection to the crown of the plant in freezing weather plus gives shelter and seeds to wintering birds.
- Apply compost or shredded leaves to protect soil from pounding rains
- Take time to enjoy the winter garden

For a more complete, personalized “to-do” list, clients may refer to their Design Information booklet.

This free newsletter is a service to my clients and other interested gardeners, compliments of:

Eden Landscape Design

Janene Walkky

www.edenlandscapedesign.com

If you have questions, comments, or want to unsubscribe, please contact me at:

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