

Fall & Winter in Your Garden

- Plan garden renovations and install during cooler months for a beautiful yard in spring.
- Plant spring-flowering perennials now for better blooms next year.
- Purchase nursery stock in the fall; it's larger and a better value now.
- Plant shrubs and trees in cool months to get roots settled in before summer's heat.
- Monitor irrigation settings as weather cools; reduce length of irrigation time and/or the number of days to prevent fungus problems and sad, soggy shrubs and grass.
- Water your lawn only when you see your footsteps.
- Check irrigation for new trees and large shrubs; water well at slow rate with hose for 1 hour once or twice a week
- Schedule seasonal plantings around easy-to-remember dates:
 - Late September: Allysum, dianthus, lobelia, petunias
 - Halloween: Pansies, snapdragons, violas, and small bulbs
 - Thanksgiving: Daffodil, narcissus, leucojum and rain lily bulbs
 - December 1: Cyclamen
 - New Year's Day: Pre-chilled tulip bulbs
- Rake compost over your lawn and water in well for healthy grass.
- Eliminate overgrown or unhealthy plants—it's okay to give up on problematic plants!
- Choose hardy plants to survive the alternating deluge and drought of Houston summers.
- Color your garden with hardy flowering shrubs that take turns blooming throughout the year.
- Divide agapanthus and daylilies now, cut back by 1/2 ~ replant new drifts for spring color.
- Prune fall blooming shrubs after they bloom to reshape and promote fuller growth. Spread your neighborhood pine needles in beds and compost your autumn leaves.
- Nourish heat-stricken plants with compost and water well.
- Prune stray shoots from spring-blooming shrubs to let flower buds form.
- Replace weak azaleas with spring blooming native Viburnum and Sweetspire.
- Improve drainage with soil elevations and shallow swales
- Reduce mosquito populations by eliminating clogged gutters, low spots in the yard, and unnecessary pot saucers
- Protect against pests such as spider mites on rosemary or lace bugs on azaleas with natural Neem Oil spray
- Fertilize roses with cottonseed/alfalfa meal and water in with a seaweed solution

If all this sounds like too much trouble—ask us about a customized Home & Habitat Landscape Maintenance Service contract!