

Haddam Garden Club

December 1, 2018 Garden Blog Article

by Cindy Tillson



December Garden Chores

Garden chores are certainly dwindling as the days are short and the temperatures getting colder. Do one last tour around the house to be sure you haven't left any clay pots out or a hose bib not drained, left the clay bird bath out... And don't forget that last bag of bulbs—the ones you got in August and misplaced (like looking under the bed before you check out of the hotel room). One year I had to chip the frozen earth to plant them and they still grew. Go over the yard with the mower one last time to chew up any leaves that are left.

I want to emphasize that chewed up leaves decompose quickly and become the best lawn fertilizer as compost you could find. Using it for garden mulch is also the best mulch/compost, as well as being a gift from Mother Nature. I'm going to invest in a leaf/small brush chipper for next year.

Check that the bird-feeder poles are anchored well into the ground before the ground freezes. David Sibley says they should be installed at least 30' away or within 2' of the house to best minimize bird strikes. Leaving the window screens on or using specific bird screens available from www.birdscreen.com help too. If you don't want the screening, try hanging monofilament strings from the top of the window on the outside to dangle in the breeze. Birds need a water source too---do you heat your bird bath?

Get those flexible fiberglass poles (or other devices meant to indicate where the driveway ends, and lawn begins) in the ground while it's still soft. I always think I'll remember where the line is until the snow is a foot deep....

With the windy weather we've been having, there are probably dangling branches—you could cut those off, so they don't flop around and cause more damage—one less thing to do in the spring, too.

Don't postpone writing down your successes, failures and thoughts for next year. I took photos of the plants I want to move hoping that will help me in the spring. If you haven't cleaned and oiled your tools, now is a good time.

Collect some various greens, berries and seed pods to stuff in your large plastic pots for winter decoration. Wreath making was covered last December.

The December meeting of the Haddam Garden Club will be closed for the members to make the beautiful holiday decorations that you see in and on town buildings.