



Virginia Green Industry Council

For Immediate Use

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Electronic Version:
www.viriniagreen.org

Want a Healthy Garden Next Summer? Start Working on it This Fall

Want a healthy, beautiful and productive garden next summer? The follow is a checklist of activities that you can begin right now and is sure to make all your neighbors envious next season.

- Rake up fallen leaves and remove plant debris from the garden and landscape. Dried plant debris provides energy for disease organisms to survive the winter.
- Compost all plant debris properly to ensure plant pathogens are destroyed.
- Check the roots of annual plants as you remove them and perennials as you divide them. Discard those with galls, rots, or other abnormalities that might indicate a root disease or nematode problem
- Check trees and shrubs for damaged or diseased areas and remove as recommended for the situation.
- Consider pruning trees and shrubs to increase air circulation in the landscape. This reduces the length of time moisture is present. The longer moisture is present the greater the chance of disease.
- Plan to purchase soaker hoses for the garden to minimize wetting of the foliage and to conserve water.
- If fireblight was a problem on apple and related plants, mark the cankered (dead) areas with white latex paint or string so you can find them when it's time for removal in late winter.
- Treat for oak leaf blister and peach leaf curl.
- Make a list of the problem plants. Use this list to choose disease resistance plants when you look through the garden catalogs this winter.
- Redesign on paper, your vegetable and flower gardens to allow for good air circulation and plan to purchase stakes and cages to keep tall vine plants off the ground.
- Read a book on the proper care of different plants including fertilizing and pruning. Properly cared-for plants are the healthiest and most disease resistant.
- Take a gardening class.
- Add some compost to the garden to increase organic material in the soil and bolster natural disease suppression.
- Go bulb shopping but purchase only high quality, healthy bulbs.

A little work now and this winter will yield big next year.

Go to our consumer website for additional gardening information at www.VirginiaGardening.com

The Virginia Green Industry Council is the voice of the horticulture industry in the Commonwealth and is dedicated to enhancing the beauty of the state's environment, the well-being of our citizens, improving our state's economy, and improving the health and wellness for everyone in Virginia. The Council is made up of providers and consumers of horticultural products and services. The Council works to provide public and industry education, environmental guidelines and other information that will keep Virginia green and growing. For more information, visit www.viriniagreen.org. 540-382-0943 FAX: 540-382-2716

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