

In the garden with Shobha Vanchiswar



November 5, 2010

Our November To-Do List

1. Take down Halloween decorations. Be sure to scour the property for candy wrappers, silly string, etc.
2. Continue to rake and dispose of leaves either in compost piles or in regulation paper bags.
3. Cut back perennials. Leave be the ones that will provide food for birds or offer winter interest. Personally, I cut everything as all too soon they are covered in snow and subsequently reduced to mush.
4. Hurry up and get the bulbs into the ground. Cool bulbs for indoor forcing.
5. Wrap roses and any other vulnerable plants for winter.
6. Clean and store safely pots and tools. Place stakes, cages, watering cans and other related equipment in a manner that keeps them handy for next year.
7. Empty garden hoses and store indoors. Shut off all outdoor taps.
8. Clean and put away outdoor furniture.
9. Last call to get tender plants indoors.
10. Protect statuary and large pots by covering securely with plastic. I then tie burlap over them to give them some aesthetic appeal.
11. Get decorations such as pumpkins, gourds, acorns, pinecones and such ready for Thanksgiving.
12. Set up birdfeeder. Keep it filled at all times.
13. Collect and store seeds in labeled containers in a cool, dry place.
14. Finish planting new trees and shrubs before ground freezes. Water until that time.
15. If you are planning to get a live tree for Christmas and you know the approximate size you plan to purchase, select now where you will be planting it in spring. Then dig the appropriately sized hole. Fill temporarily with dry leaves and cover the hole with a sheet of wood or metal. Weight it down so it won't shift in a strong winter storm. When you are ready to plant, you won't break your back trying to break through the frozen ground.

