

Gardener's Corner

November 2025

Brrrrrr! It didn't seem like there was much of a transition between summer and fall this year. While it's been great to finally get some much-needed rain, I prefer to have a gentler (and warmer) introduction to fall.

Recommendations from the **Missouri Botanical Gardens** will help us finish out the planting season as the weather gets colder. They suggest it's time to winterize your roses by applying a 6–10-inch layer of mulch after a heavy frost. Trees and shrubs can be planted if the ground can be worked. Remember to remove any of the packing materials (wires ropes and non-biodegradable) before backfilling with dirt. These new plantings, as well as older trees and shrubs, should continue to be watered until the ground freezes. Use the “donut” method of applying mulch rather than “volcano” mulching.

Flowers and foliage of perennials should be removed if they are damaged by frost. This includes hostas, daylilies and irises. Depose of any plant material with fungal disease on foliage. Plant tulips until the ground freezes, then add mulch.

There are some interesting articles in the latest issue of the **University of Missouri Extension Garden Spade**. The first is on the spotted lantern fly. This destructive insect has already had a few sightings in Missouri. If it becomes more prevalent, it threatens to do great damage, particularly to the wine and grape industry.

The second article is about fall webworms. In addition to describing how to contend with them, it provides information about how to distinguish them from bagworms and Eastern tent caterpillars. You can find these articles here:

https://i.emlfiles4.com/cmpdoc/9/4/0/0/9/1/files/27571_october-2025-garden-spade-newsletter.pdf

An article entitled *How to keep birds fed and happy this winter* can be found on the **University of Minnesota Extension** website. While it specifies conditions in Minnesota, there are some good tips for helping birds in our Missouri backyards through the winter. The article can be found here: <https://extension.umn.edu/yard-and-garden-news/how-keep-birds-fed-and-happy-winter>

An interesting video from the **University of Illinois Extension** on changing leaves is available on YouTube. You can view *Why leaves change in the fall and which do it best* at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2VGsf8SPiU>