

THE EL DORADO NURSERY AND GARDEN NEWSLETTER

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Nov/Dec 2021



GARDEN CALENDAR



What to do in Nov

- Closed Thanksgiving Day. Happy Turkeying!
- Knock down basins around trees so rain will drain off.
- Plant spring blooming bulbs. Be sure to use bulb food or bone meal and amend the soil.
- Transplant trees, shrubs, and perennials. Amend the soil before planting and add starter fertilizer or bone meal.
- Start indoor Amaryllis and Paperwhites (mid-month begin forcing bulbs to give as holiday gifts).
- Rake leaves and recycle to your compost pile. Plant garlic and onion sets. Use starter fertilizer or vegetable food.
- Flush drip-irrigation systems with water to clear sediment, then drain the lines to avoid winter freezing and breakage. Drain garden hoses and disconnect from faucet.
- After leaf drop, apply first dormant spray (dormant oil and copper).
- Purchase a living Christmas tree, keep outside until just before Christmas.



What to do in Dec

- Closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!
- Need gift ideas? We sell gift cards.
- Apply second dormant spray on fruit trees. See us for info and supplies.
- Hoe and pull winter weeds. Apply pre-emergent herbicides to prevent weeds.
- Remove foil from gift plants to prevent root rot.
- **Move live Christmas trees indoors to decorate. Do not leave inside for more than 10 days.**
- Rake up leaves to prevent spread of disease and over-wintering insects.
- To save tender plants from sudden freeze, turn on sprinklers or mist them lightly before they thaw (cold water adds heat). Other methods include Cloud Cover spray, covering the plants with row cover (sold at the nursery). Or try wrapping a small string of Christmas tree lights (the warm kind) on the plant.
- Apply iron to yellowing Gardenias, Azaleas, other acid-loving plants, and Citrus.
- Prepare holes for Bareroot Fruit Tree planting. See our web site for what will be coming in- <https://www.eldoradonursery.com/bareroot-1>



GARDEN TIP OF THE MONTH



Persimmons are in season and drying is one great way to enjoy them. Pick Hachiya (the heart shaped ones that are gushy when ripe) when they are still quite hard but just starting to color up. **Peel** and hang by the stem with string in a warm location, such as a sunny window, until it shrivels. Called Hoshigaki in Japanese, absolutely worth the effort. In the traditional Japanese style, it helps to squeeze them every couple of days. The sugars will condense and layer the outside of the fruit. This takes a good four to six weeks for the process to complete. Make sure there is enough air circulation, so they don't mold. If any mold does appear, spritz fruit with vodka. The dried fruit has an amazing flavor and looks like it's been dusted with powdered sugar. Then just eat them like candy! - *Shilo*



Around the Nursery:



Live Christmas Trees



Japanese maples are in!! Come see the large selection



PROTECTING YOUR WINTER GARDEN THE RIGHT WAY!

Temperatures are dropping for winter, threatening the lifespan of many plants that dwell outside. For the gardeners among us, this means taking measures to protect our precious vegetable garden plants from frosts and cold soil. We have some tips to help you protect your winter garden of greens, garlic, and root crops so that you can enjoy them fresh throughout the season.

COVER YOUR PLANTS FROM FROST!

Many winter vegetables such as kale, hardy broccoli, turnips, and spinach can survive a few frosts (although not extreme frosts) without being covered. Crops like lettuces, chard, beets, and radishes are more sensitive, so it's a good idea to cover your rows with a garden cloth (remay, Frost Blanket) which we carry here if frost is predicted. If an overnight frost is in the forecast, make sure to cover your plants as soon as the sun goes down. Overwintering crops like garlic should be mulched with straw or wood chips before frosts to keep the bulbs warm enough underground.

Frost sensitive plants such as citrus can be wrapped with incandescent (old fashioned) Christmas lights and covered with frost blanket. You can leave this setup on all winter.

It won't hurt the plant. Just be sure the bulbs don't come in contact with leaves as they can be damaged.



MODIFY YOUR WATERING SCHEDULE

Your winter vegetable garden will not need as much water as in the summer, as the roots won't be sucking it up. If your soil is dry, water during the warmest part of the day to avoid chilling the roots and avoid watering the leaves to prevent frost-build up on the foliage.

HARVESTING YOUR WINTER VEGGIES WITH CARE

Your winter vegetables will likely grow much slower than in the spring and summer, so adjust the size of your harvest accordingly. It's best to harvest your veggies during mid-day, so they don't go into shock from being picked during colder parts of the day. Keep in mind that a slight frost will make for sweeter and crisper vegetables, so wait for an overnight chill if you enjoy them that way.



OTHER HELPFUL TIP'S

CREATE A WALL FOR WIND PROTECTION- This is important if you live in a windy area that can rustle the plants up. Use stacked bricks for smaller veggies patch or make a fence and wrap plastic or agricultural cloth around it for larger gardens. This is another way to keep your plants warmer and to protect them from sharp, cold winds.

CREATE A COLD FRAME- Cold frames are a great way to protect your plants from cold nights as well as help them warm up during the day. A cold frame is basically a bottomless case with transparent glass or plastic cover that you can place over your plants.

On sunny days the clear cover will let sunlight in, creating a mini greenhouse, while the cover will hold heat and keep the cold out during the night or below freezing days. Cold frames are great for raised beds, as they can be made to fit the bed and simply stored during warmer months.

CREATE A HOTBED- Give your plants the *luxury treatment*, you can take it all a step further and make a hotbed for them. This is basically a cold frame that has a heated bottom layer below the plant roots. You can create this heated bottom with weather-proof heating cables, heating pads or a layer of active compost to create an ambient temperature for your veggies.



FALL & WINTER TOOL CARE



Taking care of your gardening tools will save you the cost of frequent replacement. Cleaning your tools before putting them to bed for the winter will so keep

them more functional, efficient and prevent the damage a rusty or dull tool may do to a shrub during pruning.

1. Disinfect. If you don't clean and oil your garden tools on a regular basis, now is the time to do so. Disinfect tools in a bleach solution for 15 seconds. Mix one part bleach to four parts water. Use a fresh solution for each tool.
2. Remove Rust. Rub steel wool with the grain of tools to loosen specks of rust. Dust off steel wool and rust particles with a dry cloth. Then rub with a cloth sprayed with a lubricant such as WD 40 to prevent rust from forming during storage.
3. Sharpen. Use a whetstone or bastard file in a sweeping side-to-side motion. Follow the existing angle of the blade.
4. Store for winter. Dump builder's sand and then a quart of motor oil into a large plastic bucket. Insert tools, blade down into the bucket.

Bareroot Planting Is Upon Us

Bareroot gets its name because the plant is harvested in the field and shipped with "bare roots," not in soil. Upon arrival at the Nursery, we "heel" the plants into a peat pot and keep the correct moisture level until they are purchased. The roots can't dry out or be too wet. Planting them promptly after bringing them home is important.

Now is the time to plan your food crops. Bareroot begins to arrive mid-November through February, usually starting with berries, raspberries, blackberries, and the like. In The fruit trees and grapes are usually available in early January. It all depends on the weather where the plants are grown. If the soil is too wet, harvest is delayed. You can reserve your choices now and your order will be pulled upon arrival.



Trees come in sizes: standard, 15-30' (not currently available), semi-dwarf 15' (the most popular), and dwarf 6-8' (limited varieties available in this size). All trees can be kept at a desired height with summer pruning. Tree spacing is determined by how large you plan to keep the tree. Trees usually get as wide as they are tall.

Trees need six to eight hours of sun per day during the growing season. They also need adequate air circulation for good health; you will need the room to prune, harvest, thin, and irrigate around the trees.

Backyard orchard culture is the method of spacing and pruning designed to give you more fruit varieties in less space.

Nut trees are not usually pruned so give them the space required. Also make sure that they won't end up shading shorter surrounding trees. We can help you make informed decisions if you choose to purchase multiple trees.

Planting in the bare root season gives you the widest availability of varieties that will perform best in our local soil and climate. It also costs less than buying potted. Check out the next page to see what we are carrying this year. You can read detailed descriptions about each variety on our website or get a list at the register. If there is a certain variety you want, it is best to book it early because some have already sold out. Plant fruit trees and berries this year and enjoy the harvest for years to come.

