

Fall Cleanup

By: Melinda Sperl

Fall is the time of year to prepare your yard for winter. Because we are somewhat of a tropical climate many of our plants cannot survive our normal winters much less the recent freeze and drought. Proper preparation can save many of your plants this year.

Mulch is the most important item for winter preparedness. Mulch gives insulation to the roots of plants, keeps weed seeds from germinating, retains moisture around the roots, oxygenates the soil, then biodegrades to feed the plants.

Winterize your plants and grass. Use a low nitrogen fertilizer, preferable organic, to feed your plants and grass for the winter months.

Apply pre-emergent herbicide to your flowerbeds and grass to kill the weed seeds that will germinate the following season.

Tree trimming should only be done in the winter when the tree is dormant and the sap is not flowing. Remember that trees only need to be trimmed every 5 to 10 years and only by a certified arborist. One bad trim can damage a beautiful tree for life.

Plant those gardens now as this is a great time for vegetables.

Trim knockout and climbing roses now. Remove dead wood and any crossed branches. Weave or tie up any trailing stems to keep them growing where desired.

Happy Gardening!

Melinda Sperl is a Horticulturalist and the owner of Dream Landscape Design, Inc. You can reach Melinda at Melinda@dreamlandscapedesign.com or www.dreamlandscapedesign.com