

How To Overwinter Your Garden In 3 Easy Steps



Clean

This means everything. Remove tools and wipe clean before storing. Cut down any perennials down to the base of the plant. Remove all annual and other organic debris and move to your compost pile or yard waste container for collection.



Turn

Gently turn the soil with a hand cultivator to expose any unwanted pests that plan to overwinter. Grubs and Japanese beetles are two examples of pests that will reside in your soil over the cold months.



Cover

There are many methods to this part of the process. A layer of compost, leaves, or composted manure are great options for your overwintering garden. A combination of these together will be a great mixture of needed nutrients for your soil, and will help the composting process! Cover crops, such as clover, buckwheat, or winter rye, will improve your soil health. They will germinate in spring and a quick turning of the soil will get your beds harvest-ready!

Tips

When removing plants, consider using pruning shears and cutting at the base of the plant to allow the root system to remain and overwinter. This will allow the beneficial organic material to remain and replenish the soil for spring!

Leaves are a great (and free!) way to give back to your garden soil. Composted leaves contain needed nutrients for healthy soil, creating leaf mold, which will turn into the soil in spring. If you have fall leaves in your yard, this is a great option - pile them on your clean and turned garden bed, and hose down the pile with water to pack the leaves down.