

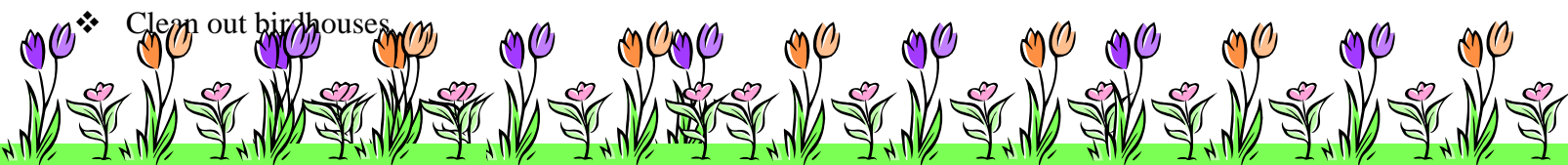


## *Fall Clean Up Tips*

**It's time to get ready for winter so here are a few tips on how you can get your backyard ready for winter. Besides the obvious aesthetic reasons, cleaning and tidying up is important because your spring garden begins with steps you should take now. Doing a fall clean up now will not only protect your plants and prepare your garden for spring but will prevent weeds and grasses from blowing around the neighborhood.**

- ❖ Clean fallen leaves and debris from gutters, downspouts and from the corners of your flower beds. Rodents find these areas a nice warm place to settle in for the winter. Make sure that the area below the downspouts is clear to allow for proper drainage.
- ❖ Turn off outside water faucets to prevent freezing and drain garden hoses so water won't freeze causing cracks and holes.
- ❖ Bring in hoses, clay pots or garden ornaments, as they can crack or break from fluctuating winter temperatures.
- ❖ Get rid of weeds. By pulling weeds in fall before they go to seed, you can help reduce the number of seedlings next year.
- ❖ Cut back fall annuals like mums, asters and pansies after they bloom. Before bringing houseplants inside your home, make sure they are free of pests. After frost, clean perennial beds and borders by cutting down dead flowers and digging up any weeds or diseased plants. Perennials with sturdy stalks can stay in your garden as long as they have foliage or you can stand to look at them. Once you tire of them simply cut them down to the ground and wait for them to bloom again in spring. Perennials that tire out and flop over in the fall should be cleaned up right away. Cutting away their foliage and stems will keep them from rotting during the wet and cool months. Tidy up daylilies by removing the dead wood but wait until after a few good frosts and until the leaves fade off to cut them down to just above ground level. If you have ornamental grasses, these should be kept until they start collapsing or shedding their leaves, then cut the grasses back to just about 4 inches from the ground. This will keep your yard tidy during the winter months. With your evergreen perennials, such as azalea, rhododendrum, etc. don't prune them just yet. Only prune to groom or to get rid of dead stems. Evergreen perennials that are pruned now will not flower in the spring.
- ❖ Before the ground freezes, divide large clumps of spring and summer blooming perennial plants to control their size and renew blooming. This includes overgrown ornamental grasses. More information on dividing perennials is on page 2.
- ❖ Fertilize young trees and shrubs that have been in the ground for at least a year. No need to fertilize established trees and shrubs if they are mulched.
- ❖ **Please remember...Lipinsky is not responsible for pruning and fertilizing plantings in the back of our homes. Lipinsky is responsible only for maintaining what was planted when our homes were built.** Lipinsky is responsible for mulch. However, if you purchase mulch, it must match the mulch that is currently in place.

❖ Clean out birdhouses



## *Dividing Perennials*

- ❖ Fall is the right time to divide and replant Black Eye Susan, Chrysanthemum, Daylily, Peony, Primrose, Poppy, and other perennials (spring and summer blooming plants that grow back year after year). These plants, and many other perennials do well when divided during autumn.
- ❖ Dividing established perennials during autumn months is the easiest and quickest way to make them healthier - while gaining new plants for your garden or for sharing with your neighbors. The best candidates for division are perennial plants that have large, healthy clumps and have been in the ground several years.

### **To divide your perennials:**

- ❖ Try to divide dormant perennials on a cloudy day when the weather is dry, making sure each plant division has more roots than shoots. Use a shovel to dig deep all the way around the plant and gently lift it out of ground with your hands.
- ❖ Keep as much of the root system intact as possible. If working with a very large clump, force the shovel under the root ball to loosen before you lift plant.
- ❖ Shake off loose soil and wash the crown with a garden hose until you can clearly see roots and crowns.
- ❖ Each division should have two to five strong shoots with ample roots attached. Divide the plant into smaller clumps either by hand, or with a knife or spade. Roots of some older clumps can be so tough that you'll need to chop them.
- ❖ Remove any dead areas and cut back remaining foliage to half the height of the original clump. Tall plants like Iris should be cut so the outer leaves are slightly shorter than the center leaves.
- ❖ Replant divided perennials promptly so roots don't dry out. Set plants out at the same depth as before, making sure to replant one division back into the original hole.
- ❖ Dig the hole slightly larger than the division to allow space for the new plant to spread out its roots.
- ❖ To finish up, water thoroughly and apply mulch to keep soil from drying out and to protect the plant's root system. Keep the soil moist until your new plant becomes established. Wait until spring before adding fertilizer.

