



# Pointers from Parks

A monthly piece from Parks and Recreation

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## Winter Prepping

Preparing gardens and plants for winter is an important task that should be done every year in order to fortify and keep the plants safe through the winter. October and early November are good times in the year to start doing this, as the average date for the first frost in North Texas falls on November 16<sup>th</sup>. Keep in mind that this is an average and that while it doesn't often happen, the frost CAN fall as early as October 30<sup>th</sup>.

The main priorities in winter prep should be to protect the plants in your yard and garden and you may also want to select some roses, shrubs, and other perennials (plants that live for more than two years) to plant at this time. Why plant now? The still warm soil and cooling weather stimulates a plant's root growth and encourages the above ground part of the plant to go dormant in order to reduce stress.

Several things you can do in order to prep your garden for the winter:

- Rake up and collect those leaves. They prevent sunlight from getting to the grass, and instead, can be shredded for mulch in your flowerbeds.



Believe it or not, this photo was taken in Westlake!

- Cut back your perennials, and trim any dead or dying foliage.
- If you have any potted plants outside, go ahead and move them to a sheltered area, such as the garage, to protect them from the wind.



This photo is pretty, but it will kill the potted plants that aren't as hardy.

- After the freeze, add a layer of mulch to your beds in order to keep the soil at a consistent temperature. The fluctuating weather we have here in Texas can damage root systems below the soil.
- Cover younger plants or palms with a paper wrap or burlap cover. This helps protect them from more severe weather during the winter. These wraps can be removed in the spring.



For more resources and information, please feel free to check out some of the links\* we've attached below:

<http://bexar-tx.tamu.edu/homehort/archives-of-weekly-articles-davids-plant-of-the-week/winterizing-your-landscape/>

<http://www.colostate.edu/Dept/CoopExt/4dmg/Garden/longwint.htm>

<https://www.lowes.com/creative-ideas/gardening-and-outdoor/preparing-your-garden-for-winter/article>

<http://www.diynetwork.com/how-to/outdoors/gardening/fall-soil-preparation>

<http://txmg.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/bell/files/2010/03/Winterizing-Your-Garden.pdf>

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, contact us at [kwade@westlake-tx.org](mailto:kwade@westlake-tx.org), or call us at 817-490-5768.

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Watermark Photo Courtesy of Jaymi Ford.