

Take a moment to explore this checklist that the My Thyme Gardens team recommends when the time comes for fall cleanups.

- **Proper feeding for the fall** - it is important as our perennials, shrubs, and trees prepare for the winter that we give them plenty of nutrients to rejuvenate their roots after the heat of the summer.
- **Remember to water** - even though we have made it through the heat of the summer, our plants are storing up energy for the winter, and fall watering is just as important as spring. Many of our evergreens need water even a few sips throughout the winter (keep an eye out for our blog on this).
- **Divide plants** - Fall is the perfect time to divide those plants that are not producing as well or just getting overcrowded. Some of our favorites to divide at this time are daylilies, hosta, and ornamental grasses.
- **Plant fall bulbs** - If your springs are seeming a little lackluster and dull, consider a few pops of color to spice things up. Fall is the best time to install spring bulbs for color. Feeling overwhelmed? We would love to give you a complimentary spring color assessment.
- **Leaf care** - Leaves on your lawn can be a problem, but leaves in your garden can be a boost. As the leaves break down, they become food for the worms below the soil and help to aerate our often compacted clay soil. There is a balance in too many leaves, so we are happy to help navigate this stage of putting the gardens to bed and keeping them tidy.
- **Fall cut-down** - perennials can be cut down to tidy the overall appearance of the fall/ winter garden. Yet, in some cases, it is best to leave them up for the winter, for winter interest, nesting material and food for the birds and critters, or for flowering purposes (hydrangeas).
- **Other fall tasks** - Edging (natural edge only), weeding. A cleaner fall will get your beds off to a healthy spring.
- **Pruning** - Shrubbery, bushes, and decorative plants require trimming to promote growth and maintain the proper shape. Bonus points for renovation pruning, which means taking old, overgrown shrubs and pruning them to encourage new growth + prolific flowering.
- **Mulching** - This helps with weed prevention and retains moisture for the roots. It will eventually break down and absorb into the soil, improving its structure and giving it nutrients.

Gift your garden with love so that it will not just survive, but thrive. As always, give us a call with questions. We also offer garden coaching! Enjoy a customized walkthrough of your own property learning how to care for your garden throughout the year. May include design and redesign ideas.