

What to Do in the November Vegetable Gardens

1. Start to take out the garden-only partially done. Should dispose of tomato plants, all cucumber and squash plants. I won't compost any of them as I don't want to spread any possible diseases they may have had since they are very disease prone and if you don't get your compost pile hot enough, you may not kill all the pathogens. Also rake any debris and get rid of it. Make the dirt pretty. Here I come city dump!

2. Finish heating up my regular compost pile. Got to get more coffee grounds, leaves and fresh horse manure, bloodmeal or cottonseed meal (to heat up the pile) and add to the partially composted piles and turn them. Soon I won't be adding any kitchen scraps as they will not break down in the dead of winter. This is for a regular compost pile.

For a vermicompost (worm) pile you need to continue to feed them and give them water as needed, only not as much.

3. Get some horse manure and put it on your garden beds and dig under in and let it break down over winter. You can use hot manure or cold, doesn't matter in the fall. This will act as a soil conditioner to help our poor soils. (Arrowhead ranch or Eldorado)

4. El Nino-suppose to be the biggest year in recorded history which means usually lots of moisture for the Southwest. This will help all the trees and plants. Of course if we don't get water, you'll have to do that manually. This will also will help break down that manure in your freshly turned beds.

5. Turn off the drip system timers but need to take out the batteries and put them inside somewhere. I never drain or blow out the drip and never had a problem as the water will come out the emitters.

6. We have already had one freezing night, so be sure to bring in any products in your garden shed that have soil microbes in them in products such as Serenade, Companion and Mycorrhizal but I'm going to get them anyways out of the garden shed and put them in the house where it is warmer.

7. Gophers- Trap them now. They are very active in the fall. They particularly like fruit trees.

8. Find all your tools out in your garden and put them into a garden shed or garage. Cleanup and straighten out that garden shed while your there. And set some mouse traps in case they think the row cover is really just blankets for them in the winter.

9. Look for specials on Seaweed, Thrive, Yum, Yum mix, and Fish emulsion.They can be really cheap right now.

10. Need to make notes about what happen in the garden this year-you know, successes, failures, problems-things I can look at next Spring to refresh my memory. Need to make a diagram of where my diseased tomatoes were before I forget. Shouldn't replant tomatoes back in those spots again for 2-3 years.. It's called plant rotation-Find a new spot to plant tomato plants or put them iin new spaces between where you planted last year.

11. Finish up collecting outside seeds and sorting them.

12. You can planting some starts of spinach and lettuce in a cold frame or hoopouse NOW! Just an experiment to see if they will do well or not. Cover any cool season crops with winter weight row cover at night that you may still have in the outside garden to protect them as long as possible. I still have kale, lettuce, and chard outside and thriving in this cool weather.