



Green Gardening Tips

It's time to clean up the garden

Why clean up your garden in fall?

- Fallen leaves that remain on the lawn too long can damage or even kill it.
- Many pests lay eggs in the fall. The eggs overwinter and hatch in the spring.
- Fruit, fallen leaves and weeds may harbor fungal diseases and pests.

Here's what to do

- **Rake leaves off your lawn.** Chop up leaves with your mower and use as mulch on garden beds, or add them to your compost bin.
- **Dispose of diseased leaves.** Don't compost leaves from trees and shrubs with black spot, anthracnose or other fungal diseases. Discard them in the yard waste bin instead. The high heat of large-scale composting will kill pathogens.
- **Hunt for eggs of pests and destroy them.** Some common pests that lay eggs in the fall are:
 - **Slugs and snails.** Look near vulnerable plants, such as hostas, pansies, cabbage and lettuce. The eggs look like clusters of tiny pearls.
 - **Imported cabbage worm.** Look on the underside of cabbage leaves for eggs or larvae.
 - **Aphids** on fruit plants. Look in bud scales and branch tips, especially on fruit trees.
 - **Tent caterpillars.** Look for eggs laid in bands around small twigs, branches or host trees, or on concrete walls.
- **Pick up all fallen fruit and discard in the yard waste bin.** This interrupts the life cycle of both the apple maggot and codling moth. *Apples, pears, Asian pears and some plums* are susceptible to these pests.
- **Remove weeds from garden beds.** Winter weeds are small and easy to control this time of year. By spring they will go to seed and spread quickly when the weather warms up.
- **But—don't worry about making everything tidy.** Plants that have died back or have some dead sections may provide habitat for wildlife and seeds for birds to eat in the winter.



Top: snail or slug eggs
Bottom: imported cabbage worm eggs

Questions about garden cleanup?

Contact the Garden Hotline at 206-633-0224, help@gardenhotline.org or www.gardenhotline.org.

This information is available in alternative formats. Call 206-296-4692 or TTY Relay: 711



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