

November Gardening Tips
Adapted from Colorado Month to Month Gardening
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If the ground is not frozen, you can still plant bulbs. (They may bloom a little later than those planted in September or October but they will still bloom)

Cut back perennials from last year so they will bloom better. It is important to cut back perennials now. If the foliage is diseased, it will not only re-infect the plant next season, but it also could spread the disease to other plants as well. With a sharp pair of pruners, remove dead plant material all the way to the crown. Remove or compost debris.

Mulch young and newly planted trees and shrubs. Wait until the end of the month when the ground is frozen.

Wrap or whitewash the trunks of young and tender-barked trees. Trees and shrubs exposed to the south or southwest are prone to sunscald in winter. On sunny days, temperatures in the sun can get as high as 60 degrees and, because the tree has no leaves for protection, the tender bark will freeze and then thaw, causing cracking. To prevent sunscald, wrap the tree trunk with tree wrap or any other light-colored material that can be removed in the spring. The trunk can also be sprayed with a diluted white latex (Not oil-based) paint.

Brush heavy snow off tree and shrub limbs to protect them.

Create a touch of spring during the cold winter months by “forcing” spring bulbs to grow in pots inside your home. Buy healthy tulip, hyacinth, daffodil, crocus and dwarf or Dutch iris bulbs early in the month. Set the bulbs close together in shallow pots in good potting soil. The tip of the bulb should be exposed by about one-third (iris should be covered). Water thoroughly, then place the pots in a cold location (consistent 40 degrees) for 13 to 15 weeks. Check the bulbs to see if they have developed a number of roots; if they have, the bulbs are ready to “graduate” to a warmer location (consistent 55 degrees). As growth shoots up, move the pots to a permanent location. Some bulbs, such as paperwhites and amaryllis, do not have to be placed in the cold for 13 to 15 weeks before they will bloom. Simply pot the bulbs and care for as you would any houseplant. Paperwhites will bloom about five weeks after planting; amaryllis in about eight weeks.

