



Horticulture

Storing vegetables



After a successful garden season, you may have vegetables you would like to store until you are ready to use them. Here are suggestions to help you store your vegetables properly.

Carrots: Trim carrot tops to one inch. Layer unwashed carrots in a container of moist sand. Carrots can be stored in a cool place, 32-40 degrees Fahrenheit for 4-5 months.

Onions: Store cured onions in a dry location at 32-40 degrees Fahrenheit.

Potatoes: Cure fresh dug potatoes 1-2 weeks in a dark, dry location at 50-60 degrees Fahrenheit. Store cured potatoes in a dark location at 40 degrees Fahrenheit for 5-6 months.

Sweet potatoes: Cure fresh dug sweet potatoes at 80-85 degrees Fahrenheit for 10 days. Store cured sweet potatoes in a dry, dark location at 55-60 degrees Fahrenheit for 4-6 months.

Turnips: Trim turnip tops to one inch. Layer unwashed turnips in a container of moist sand.

Turnips can be stored in a cool place, 32-40 degrees Fahrenheit for 4-5 months.

Winter squash: Cure vine ripen winter squash for 10 days at 80-85 degrees Fahrenheit and high humidity. Store mature, cured winter squash in a dry location at 55 degrees Fahrenheit for 2-6 months. Acorn squash will keep well in a dry place at 45 degrees Fahrenheit for 35 to 40 days. Do not cure acorn squashes before storing them.

For more information about storing other vegetables or fruits, please refer to NebGuide: Storing Fresh Fruits and Vegetables G95-1264. This publication is available at your local county extension office. Storing your vegetables properly will insure that you will have good quality produce to enjoy in the months ahead. (MJM)

Winterizing roses

Hybrid teas, floribundas, grandifloras and climbing roses need protection from low temperatures and rapid temperature changes to prevent winter injury or possible death.

Bush type roses are protected by hilling or mounding soil around the base of the plants. Begin by removing fallen leaves and other debris from around each plant. Mound soil 8 to 10 inches around the canes. Place straw or shredded leaves over the soil mound for additional protection.

If styrofoam rose cones are used, prune the bushes to allow the cones to be placed over the plants. Mound 6 to 8 inches of soil around the base of the plants. Then place the cone over the rose, securing it with bricks or other heavy objects. If not provided, small holes or slits should be placed in the top of the cones to provide ventilation.

Providing winter protection for climbing roses is a little more difficult. The canes must be removed from the trellis and carefully bent to the ground.



Cover the canes with a few inches of soil and then mulch with straw.

Winter protection should be in place by mid-November. The materials should be removed before growth begins in the spring, usually early April. (MJM)

House plant insect problems

If you have house plants, at some time you will have a problem with insects. The most common house plant insects are aphids, white flies, mealy bugs, thrips, scale and spider mites.

Some of these insects are so small it is difficult to see them, but most can be seen without the use of a



hand lens. Fortunately most of the insects are easily controlled with insecticides. Instructions for using these insecticides will be on the label.

Following these instructions carefully is important to avoid damaging your plants.

Insect damage to

plants takes on various appearances. Color changes in the leaves often indicate the presence of insects. If leaves curl, dry and die, check for possible insect infestations.

Isolate new plants to be certain they are not bringing new insects into your house. Inspect your plants regularly to keep ahead of any potential insect problems. (MJM)

Y2K houseplants?

Here are a few simple tips to put into action now, to secure the health of your houseplants in case there is a temporary power outage or water shortage.

*Reduce fertilizer use.

During the winter, house plants will grow more slowly and need less fertilizer.

*Do not over water. Over watering can lead to root rot problems. Most house plants

need to be watered only once a week.

*Check your house plants monthly for insect pests. Take care of the problem immediately. Do not allow the insect population to increase and weaken your plants.

*Group plants together. It will increase humidity and make it easier to water them when the time comes. Keep plants away

from drafts and doorways. House plants prefer a temperature of 65 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit, but most plants can tolerate cool temperatures if the power should temporarily go out.

Keep your house plants healthy so they will flourish and be able to handle any potential stress that may occur. (MJM)

Horticulture information center —24 hours a day—



NUFACTS

NUFACTS offers fast, convenient information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In the Lincoln area call 441-7188; for the rest of Nebraska call 1-800-832-5441. When directed, enter the 3-digit number of the message you wish to hear. (MJM)

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1999 November/December Garden Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Clean up fallen fruit	2 Mulch perennial plants	3 Clean, repair and organize garden tools	4 Rake leaves	5 Organize garden supplies	6
7	8 Mulch around trees and shrubs	9	10	11 Make a wish list for next year	12	13
14	15	16	17 Pick bag worms from evergreens	18	19	20
21	22	23 Check house plants for insects	24	25	26	27
28	29 Check all stored bulbs and tubers for rot	30	1	2	3 Check bird feeders	4
5	6	7	8 Check stored fruits and vegetables for signs of rot	9 Update garden journal	10	11
12	13 Order seed catalogs	14	15 Check landscape plants for snow or wildlife damage	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 Make list of garden supplies needed for next year	23	24	25
26	27	28 Have Christmas tree recycled for mulch	29	30	31	

Many of us need reminders. That is the purpose of this calendar. Check the calendar each month and follow the recommendations if they are necessary in your landscape situation. (MJM)