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CONSIDERATIONS:

- All plants should be healthy as winter approaches
- Pests should be treated.
- Determine how you'll protect plants from cold. What source of heat?
- Is water readily available to use?



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**EEEEK! It's
September!**

**Use Halts,
Dimension, or
Balan for winter
grasses (poa
annua, henbit,
chickweed)**



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WHEN?

**Begin winterizing
before the first
light frost.**

Avg for Abilene

Nov 5



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WATER
DEEPLY
BEFORE A
HARD
FREEZE



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COVER GARDEN
BEDS WITH A NEW
LAYER OF
ORGANIC MULCH

Leaves, pine
needles, bagged
mulch.



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CUT BACK
ERRATIC GROWTH
FROM SHRUBS
AND
GROUNDCOVERS.



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REMOVE DEAD OR
DISEASED PLANTS
FROM YOUR
GARDEN
BUT DON'T
OVERPRUNE
HEALTHY PLANTS



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REMOVE INVASIVE
WEEDS

i.e. SPURGE



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LEAVE
SEEDHEADS ON
PERENNIAL
PLANTS FOR
BIRDS



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Bulbs:

Most iris and cannas are left in the ground but if divided and you wait until cold weather to store them, the location should be cool, dry, and dark such as a garage, basement, or unheated storage area.

Avoid storing bulbs in sealed plastic bags, as this traps moisture and can cause rot. A mesh bag is best.

Gladioli and dahlias best divided in early winter. The optimal time to divide iris and cannas is during **late summer to early fall**.

If storing rather than replanting, prep bulbs by removing all the soil and drying them out. Place them in a shaded space out of the sun to air dry for a few days.



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ADDITIONAL TASKS FOR FALL/WINTER

- Use and renew your compost
- Replenish mulch which helps soil regulate temperatures and moisture
- Review plants in your yard, beds, etc for placement, changes, etc.



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Through the winter....

1. Use a fertilizer that is lower in nitrogen and higher in potassium, which helps the plant to stay healthy and strong during the winter months.

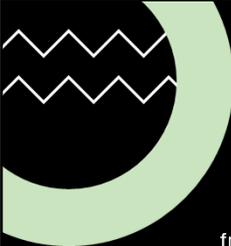
If the plants receive too much nitrogen during winter it can cause the leaves to become softer and more susceptible to disease.

In the spring you can switch to a fertilizer that is higher in nitrogen.

2. Watering needs diminishes during the winter but plants still need some water. Best to err on side of *under watering*. Depends upon climate, etc.



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TO RECAP: OUTDOOR PLANTS:

1. Water plants deeply before ground freezes. Moist soil holds heat better than dry soil.
2. Apply thick layer of organic mulch (such as straw, shredded leaves, pine needles, or wood chips) around the base of plants to protect roots and retain moisture.
3. Remove dead or diseased parts of plant but avoid heavy pruning.
5. Remove invasive weeds from around the plants.
6. Don't cut back perennial flowering plants, esp those with seeds covering their heads. (Makes excellent meals for overwintering birds)





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Where to overwinter potted plants

- 1. Greenhouse
 - 2. Garage
 - 3. Storage shed
 - 4. In the house
Basement
- OTHER??



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WHERE AM I GOING TO PUT
ALL OF THESE PLANTS?

A PORCH?



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HOW ABOUT A
GARAGE?

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OR

A STORAGE SHED

OR GREENHOUSE

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CONSIDERATIONS FOR STORING OVERWINTER PLANTS:

- 1. Deep clean, remove clutter
- 2. * Heating and lighting – **COLD** and **DARK** are main challenges
Artificial light is should be available.
Temp control should not reach the 30's
- 3. Ventilation – fan, windows

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HOW DO I GET
THEM INTO THE
WINTER
STORAGE
SPACE?

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TRY A
DOLLY!

OR A
WAGON!!!



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START WITH HEALTHY PLANTS

- 1. Fertilize one more time before moving potted plants indoors
- 2. Ensure plants are “pest free”
- 3. Water as needed once moved inside. Amt and frequency depends upon how warm and dry the location is.

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HEATING

- INSULATION – Place something (rug, wood pallet, bubble wrap, racks, etc) between pots and floor.
- Cover plants with cloth or other insulation temporarily (don't leave covered – must have light)
- Electric heater – 120/240? Circulates air? watch temperature outside and adjust accordingly.



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TRY TO GET THE PLANTS UP OFF THE FLOOR



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LIGHTING

- You can use a plain **LED light** to provide artificial sunlight for your plants, but they'll thrive more with an **LED grow light**.
- Grow lights provide the right spectrum for plants.
- Use artificial light approx. 12-14 hrs/day...not at night.



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IF POSSIBLE, TAKE
YOUR PLANTS
OUT INTO THE
SUNSHINE
DURING THE
WINTER MONTHS



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REGULARLY
CHECK
OVERWINTERED
PLANTS!

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Happy Overwintering!



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