

Gardening Almanac for the Plateau

November

Weather – Average Temperatures and Rainfall:

The average rainfall for November is 5.11 inches. The average maximum temperature is 57 degrees F., and the average minimum is 36 degrees F.

Activities:

- The application of a potassium-containing fertilizer could also help your lawn's hardiness in the winter and also make it more drought tolerant.
- Continue to rake fallen leaves and dispose of them, preferable in a compost pile.
- If you are artistic, you might consider making a wreath of grapevines or even bittersweet, and then tucking into the wreath some fall flowers, grasses, seed heads, etc.
- Cut Chrysanthemum stems to 2-3 inches from the soil once they have begun to die back
- Perennials can be planted any time you can dig into the soil, but during the winter they should remain dormant. Any new plants should be mulched with a good 3-4 inch layer of mulch.
- If you haven't planted spring flowering bulbs yet, now is a good time to do it.
- As soon as the leaves fall from fruit trees, shade or flowering trees, raspberries and other deciduous plants, they can be sprayed for the first time with a dormant spray, thus helping to control over-wintering insects and diseases. Please follow the label directions.
- Cut off the tops of asparagus plants and add aged manure to the bed as a winter dressing.
- Cover strawberries with a 2-inch layer of hay or straw, thus reducing weeds and increasing winter protection.
- Tie your raspberry canes to stakes to protect them from damaging winds.
- In our planting zone, dahlia bulbs need to be lifted from the soil in the fall after the first frost has blackened their tops. Let them dry for several days in a protected area to cure, and remove all soil from the roots, as well as dead foliage. They should be stored in peat moss or vermiculite. They prefer a cool storage area with good air circulation.
- To store geraniums by the dormant hanging method, dig plants prior to frost. Carefully shake the soil from the roots without damaging them. Hang plants upside down in a cool, dark place where temperatures remain between 45-50 degrees F. Once a month the plants must be taken down and the roots soaked in water for an hour or two, and then rehung. During the winter, most of the leaves will dry and fall off.

Wildlife:

Birds you may see during November include:

Red bellied woodpecker, Red headed woodpecker, Hairy woodpecker, Downy woodpecker, Pileated woodpecker, Muscovy duck, Mallard duck, Lesser scaup, Wood duck, Canada goose, American goldfinch, Carolina wren, Tufted titmouse, Northern junco, White breasted nuthatch, Mourning dove, House finch, Carolina chickadee, Eastern bluebird, Blue jay, Red shoulder hawk, European starling, American crow, Northern mockingbird, Northern cardinal, Great blue heron, Turkey vulture, Wild turkey and Red tail hawk.

White tailed deer, fox, rabbits, squirrels, opossums, ground hogs, bobcats and chipmunks can also be seen this month.

Flowers:

Flowers you may see, at least until a hard frost, include: Chrysanthemum, Yarrow, Autumn Joy sedum, Vinca and various ornamental grasses.

This information has been created by the Cumberland County Master Gardeners Association, Crossville TN