

# TAKING THE GARDEN FROM SUMMER TO FALL



Toledo GROWS Best Practices—Tending a Garden

Take time at the end of summer to evaluate and revitalize your garden, so it can produce until the first frost in mid-October.

## Weed, Clean, Document

- Pull all weeds, but DO NOT place thistles, weeds with seeds, or bindweed in your composter
- Remove leaves with powdery mildew or brown, spotted leaves laying in the soil so spores don't over-winter and infect next year's crops
- Remove rotting produce from plants or laying in the soil
- Draw a map of where each type of plant is growing for crop rotation next spring. Visit our website for the Vegetable Garden Plant Rotation tip sheet.

## Evaluate Plants

- Keep: plants that look healthy or relatively healthy; plants with fruit or blossoms
- Pull and put in trash (NOT the composter): plants that look unhealthy or diseased

## Care for Remaining Plants

- Overcrowded plants – create some space between plants. Choose one or two plants with the most fruit and/or blossoms and the greenest leaves and pull the rest. Visit our website for the Plant Spacing tip sheet
- Overgrown plants – trim back or stake branches that are overgrown, falling over, or overhanging other plants. Trim to the nearest stem or green leafy area, leaving some fruit or blossoms
- Gone to seed – leave the plants alone until seeds have dried and use them for propagation next year –OR- cut back to the green foliage to encourage another small crop
- Rotted/Withered/Overripe/Tough – cut these off to allow the plant to put energy into remaining healthy fruits and blossoms
- Bitter Greens – pull out and sow seed (works best with kale, spinach and lettuce) at least four weeks prior to first frost - follow instructions on package and water regularly

## Water

- Water deeply and thoroughly as needed, watering at the base of the plant and not the leaves. Make sure soil retains some moisture between waterings, but is not mucky
- Visit our website for Basic Garden Watering tip sheet



## Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services

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