

A Lovely Autumn

Everyone agrees we've had a colorful and mild autumn season. Now that frost has graced most area gardens, continue to prepare for winter protection and, yes, spring.

Daffodils are Critter Resistant

Right now get 32 Narcissus bulbs for \$9.09. That's less than 30 cents a bulb! Narcissus, or daffodils are great for area gardeners who suffer from animals eating beautiful flowers because daffodils are deer and critter resistant. Try some accented with blue from Scilla, Muscari or Hyacinth.

Protect Trees & Shrubs from Animal Browsing this Winter

Now's the time to plan to protect shrubs susceptible to winter forage and young trees.

To protect young trees against sun scald and bark cracking during cold nights and warm days, plus rodent damage, wrap the trees. We like to say, "Get them dressed for Halloween and naked for April Fool's Day."

There are two ways to protect shrubs that may get eaten by rabbits or get other animal damage. Physical protection works well by using posts supporting hardware cloth (1/4" metal mesh). Get the posts in now and then you can delay putting up the hardware cloth until around Thanksgiving. Also, or instead, apply animal repellants like RepelsAll several times before winter strikes.

Dig & Store Tender Bulbs

If frost has taken the foliage, dig and store tender bulbs including gladiolas, dahlias, cannas tuberous begonias and caladium. Allow the foliage to dry before you trim it off and then store the bulbs in vermiculite or sphagnum peat moss in a cool, (but not freezing) dark place.

Tend Fallen Leaves

Rake and shred fallen leaves with the lawn mower. If left unattended, leaves will suffocate the lawn or flower beds. Save the shredded leaves to use as mulch for the perennial beds and use when the ground is frozen.

Provide Water Now

Continue to water if we do not get at least 1-inch of rain per week. Plants installed this year and evergreens will especially need regular, deep watering.

2-fer Tuesdays in Floral

Finally, remember 2 Fer Tuesdays in our floral shop where we deliver locally and world-wide, year-round. Our designers are ready to create gifts just for you call or visit our website at www.drumpersgardencenter.com.