

Tell Your Rake the Break Is Over!

The leaves are changing colors and looking oh-so gorgeous. So bask in their beauty before they all fall down. Once that happens, rake 'em up so they don't block light to your lawn. If the leafy layer is thick and heavy enough, it can actually smother your grass. Use your lawn mower's bagger attachment, if you have one, so you can shred and gather leaves at the same time. Shredded leaves mixed with grass clippings make a fine addition to your compost pile.

And don't hang up your rake until the last leaves and pine needles have fallen. After all, even though lawns go dormant in winter, they still benefit from whatever sunlight and moisture comes their way.



Vegetable Garden Clean-Up

After the first hard frost this fall, remove all dead, dying, or spent plants to your compost pile. Then cover your garden with some of the grass clippings and shredded leaves you've gathered while you were raking, and overspray it with my Fall Garden Bedtime Tonic. A week to 10 days later, lightly spade this material into the soil, and your garden will be tucked in for the winter.

Fall Garden Bedtime Tonic

As another growing season comes to an end, it's time to prepare your vegetable garden for its long winter nap. Tuck it in with this nightcap:

1 can of regular cola (not diet)

1 cup of dishwashing liquid

¼ cup of ammonia

Mix these ingredients in a 20 gallon hose-end sprayer, filling the balance of the jar with warm water. Saturate the layer of mulch that's on top of the soil.

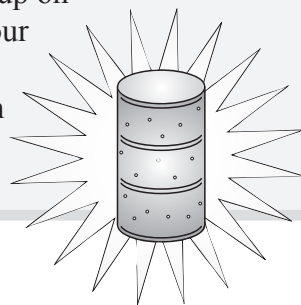
It's Tool Time—Can You Dig It?

Keep shovels, hoes, rakes, and other tools free from rust with an old-fashioned sandpit. Start by filling a 5-gallon pail about two-thirds full of sand, and then mix in half a quart of used motor oil. Set it in a corner, and plunge your tools up and down in the bucket a few times to quickly clean them up. The sand will scrub off dirt and rust, and the oil will give the metal a protective coating. When you're done, you can leave the tools in the bucket, or wipe the sand off and hang them back up where they belong.



Recycling Roundup

To light up your walkway for fall visitors or trick-or-treaters, make a batch of "souper" little lanterns. Just punch holes in the sides of empty soup cans (with the labels removed) and place a candle inside each one. Then line them up on either side of your path and along your front porch for a great evening glow.



That's not all, folks!

Check out www.jerrybaker.com for fantastic features like:

- ▶ Jerry's Blog with his thoughts on what's new in gardening and household hints.
- ▶ Critter Control solutions for battling bugs and critters in your home and garden.
- ▶ How-to videos to guide you through the growing season.
- ▶ Jerry's favorite tips and tonics—you're just a click away from a super solution.