

# how to Prep Your Garden for winter

bird-friendly



## 1. No need to overwater.

*little to no water is needed in winter*

## 2. Leave flower heads intact!

*the heads contain valuable seeds (bird food in the winter) and leftovers will reseed plants in spring*

## 3. Wait until spring to cut dried stems.

### ***container plants***

- ☑ Use containers that won't crack - metal, thick plastic, stone, concrete, wood. Do not leave clay and ceramic outside.
- ☑ Cluster pots together on north or east side of home.
- ☑ For added insulation, mulch between pots with leaves. Snow also acts as a good insulator.
- ☑ If possible, wrap pots with heavy plastic, bubble wrap, fabric, burlap, old blankets, or insert pot into a larger pot.
- ☑ Tent with plastic at night, not during the day.
- ☑ Don't bring plants inside. They're native and need to be outside year round!

### ***plants in the ground***

- ☑ Weed beds as needed.
- ☑ Slow down watering and then as it gets colder, only water on warm days.
- ☑ Mulch with leaves, branches from Christmas trees, woodchips, or mulch to prevent heaving when ground freezes.
- ☑ Prune woody shrubs and trees as needed.
- ☑ On nearby walkways, avoid using salt as a de-icing agent. Consider environmentally-friendly alternatives - Calcium Magnesium Acetate, Ice Ban, gravel, or sand.
- ☑ Remove heavy snow from branches, but leave it on the ground around plants.

***happy winter!***

