

Winter Gardening Chores



Suggestions adapted from the Hernando Chapter of the FNPS

- ❖ Assess what you have. Remember that annuals will reseed and perennials will die back and return from the roots in the spring.
- ❖ Figure out what you need. Plan to add or replace plants with species that will thrive in your landscape and provide needed biodiversity.
- ❖ Remove invasive species.
- ❖ You can pull up or mow spent annuals once they have seeded, but hold off serious pruning until March – even if you have freeze damage. Pruning stimulates the plant to grow new foliage, plus many insects overwinter.

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- ❖ Refresh your mulch. Mulch keeps weeds in the hidden seed bed from sprouting and also maintains moisture. Don't disturb existing mulch and overwintering insects. Use the right kind of mulch – organic mulch (like leaf litter or pine straw), not cypress mulch, and keep it away from the base of plants and trees.
- ❖ Extend your planting beds. Reduce your lawn by ripping up the sod or smothering, get mulch in place, and establish your edges. Then it is easy to add plants in the spring.
- ❖ Improve and reduce your irrigation. Repair existing irrigation, convert to low-cost micro-spray systems, or reduce your irrigation (if you have the right plants). Winter is also a perfect time to add a rain barrel.