



**GARFIELD COUNTY  
EXTENSION**

# Master Gardener News

Garfield County OSU Extension Center, 316 E. Enid, OK 73701 580-237-1228

NOVEMBER 2024

## Next Meeting Date – November 12, 2024

**Executive Committee Meeting: 8:30 a.m.**  
**General Meeting: 9:00 a.m.**  
**Location: Garfield County OSU Extension Office**  
**Hospitality: Amber Gill, Louise Milacek, Teresa Boeckman**  
**Program: Country Estates Tulips**

### **Message from Janet Coontz Garfield County Master Gardeners President**

Can you believe it's November? It is finally cooling down and we are grateful for the rain. Now we can begin to get our gardens ready for winter. If you haven't paid your dues (\$15) please plan to do so at our November meeting. We also need you to check your information in the book with Ruth Carvalho. We are planning to have our new books ready to go at our Christmas party, thus the need to get dues paid and check addresses & emails. Our November meeting is important because we will be electing our officers and making plans for next year. We will also be making plans for our Christmas party. See you at the November 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. Our program will be presented by Country Estates Tulips.

### **Harvest Your Pumpkin Seeds**

Pumpkin seeds make a delicious and healthy snack. But if you're not hungry, you can plant them in your garden instead and watch them grow next fall!

### **Composting — A Great Way to Make the Most of Your Leaves**

In Oklahoma landfills, 20 percent of the waste is from yard debris that consists of grass clippings, leaves, and woody branches. To lower future garbage costs, we need to reduce yard waste going to the landfill. Some landfills may ban yard waste. Composting leaves is a good alternative to landfilling.

A compost pile is built by layering organic materials. Compost piles should be 3 to 4 feet wide and 3 to 4 feet high. This volume allows the pile to heat as composting occurs.

- **First Layer:** 3 to 4 inches of dried organic matter, such as leaves or dried grass.
  - **Second Layer:** 3 to 4 inches of green material, such as kitchen vegetable scraps, grass clippings, or green plant material.
- Do not add pet manure, meat scraps, fat, bones, diseased plants, or noxious weeds to the compost pile.

A wide variety of materials or manufactured kits can be used to make a compost bin. Hardware cloth can be used to create a round bin. Square bins can be built from wooden pallets, bricks, or hardware cloth on wood frames.

Where more room is available, a three compartment bin can be built. This allows turning material from one compartment to the next as it ages. Compost improves soil tilth, especially for clay soils. Mixing compost into the soil improves aeration, water drainage, water retention, and overall plant health.

Mulching with two to three inches of compost reduces soil moisture loss, cools the soil, and reduces weed problems.

## Tips homeowners can use to prep landscapes for winter

As the weather cools down, homeowners are likely giving their lawnmowers a bit of a reprieve from summer activity, but don't put that machine away for the season quite yet.

Casey Hentges, host of Oklahoma State University Agriculture's award-winning television show Oklahoma Gardening, offers some helpful tips for homeowners for preparing their lawns for winter.

"There are a few things that people should be doing with their lawns and landscapes now to keep them healthy, so they'll look great next spring," Hentges said.

Lower the lawnmower deck to about 2.5 inches for that final mowing of warm-season grasses. This gives the lawn a tidy look over the winter.

Rake leaves off cool-season lawns to maintain a strong, healthy stand of turf.

Young tree trunks with immature bark should be wrapped to prevent southwest injury.

If establishing a new tree, visit the local nursery to see what is available now. This will show what colors the tree will be in the fall. Planting new trees now also gives them time to establish a strong root system before a hard winter freeze.

Add a splash of color to the landscape with fall flowers such as asters, mums, pansies, ornamental kale or snapdragons.

Prepare for spring color by planting spring bulbs now, such as hyacinths, tulips and daffodils.

Keep an eye out for discounted perennials at the local garden center. Now is a good time to get those planted in the garden so they'll look their best next spring.

Gardeners should harvest the last of their winter vegetables such as sweet potatoes, green tomatoes and winter squash before the first heavy frost.

Clear out the remnants of the vegetable garden and plant a cover crop, which is beneficial to the

soil. Choose crimson clover, Austrian peas, tillage radishes or even winter wheat.

Put leaves and other garden debris that do not have disease into a compost bin. Compost is great for enriching the soil in flowerbeds next spring.

"We're in the slower-paced season of gardening, but these tips will help ensure you're off to a great start next spring," Hentges said.

OSU Extension offers additional gardening and landscape information online.

### TWO KINDS OF PLANT PEOPLE



**OMG, MY  
PLANT IS  
DYING**



**I THINK I  
CAN  
SAVE IT!!!**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

*Joy Johnson—15  
Judy Huhman—15  
Sharon Ronck—27*

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Rick Nelson  
CED, Extension Educator, Agriculture/4-H

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