

## Continued... **Fall Yard and Garden Cleanup Tips**

\*Winterize your fountains and ponds. Smaller fountains should be drained and pumps taken inside for the winter.

\*Prevent weeds next year by removing weed plants and seed heads now. Desirable plants like morning glory (*Ipomoea* sp.) or *Cosmos* can become a garden nuisance if seeds are allowed to fall into garden beds. Clean up the plants now and put them—and their seeds—in yard bags for city pickup.

\*Use fallen leaves as mulch for trees, shrubs and in perennial beds. Leaves can be raked around woody plants and perennials and left until spring. Leaves will act as an insulator and help overwinter less-hardy perennials. They also provide a home to beneficial insects and spiders. Don't forget to pull back leaves in early spring that are covering spring flowering bulbs or perennials.

### **Flowers**

\*Pull annuals flowers from pots and flower beds and compost. If insects or disease were a problem this summer, dispose of plant debris in yard bags (do not home compost). Leave ornamental grass and perennial stems to provide homes for overwintering bees and other beneficial insects.

\*Carefully lift and store tender perennials such as cannas, dahlias and gladiolus. These plants have fleshy storage organs (rhizomes, tubers, corms) that cannot withstand the deep freezes if left in the ground over winter. Tender perennials should be stored dormant in a cool, dark place (ideally 45- 55 degrees Fahrenheit).

\*Plant spring-flowering bulbs like tulips, daffodils, crocus, hyacinth and snowdrops. If you have problems with squirrels digging up bulbs, try covering newly planted bulbs with hardware cloth or chicken wire. If voles eat your bulbs, try daffodils or allium, or plant in cages made from hardware cloth.

\*Incorporate compost into the soil as dividing and renovation activities go on. Store inside any pots that can't take a freeze, such as terra cotta, ceramic and many plastic pots.