



# Check List for Next Year's Garden

Gardens evolve over time, and can be a pleasure to scheme and dream about at any time of the year. With a little pre-planning, you can set yourself up for a great garden in the new year.

## Planning Your Garden

- What are your goals? Food, Lawn, Backyard Habitat
- What are your site conditions? Light, Moisture, Soil Composition, Size
- Plant Resources - Yourself, seeds from your previous crops, a neighbor, a plant sale, a nursery
- What is your budget / timeline?

## Prepare Your Bed for Fall/Winter

- Remove dead and diseased plants
- Plant cover crops
- Protect your plants - cloche, greenhouse
- Leave the Leaves - <https://xerces.org/blog/leave-the-leaves>

## Prepare Your Bed for Next Year

- Test your soil (health, nutrients, contaminants)
- Sheet mulch
- Soil amendments
- Crop selection - companion planting, crop rotation, planting zones

## What to Plant Now?

- Alliums
- Legumes
- Grass seed
- Bulbs for next season's flowers
- Trees, shrubs (native or otherwise)

**TIP:** Call 811 before you dig

Most rainwater isn't treated before it hits the Puget Sound, even if it pours down the storm drain. Planting buffers or adding in a rain garden can help filter the pollutants and slow down the water.

