

10 THINGS NOT TO DO IN THE GARDEN IN NOVEMBER IN SAN ANTONIO

Top 10 Mistakes to Avoid in the Garden This November (San Antonio Edition)

1.  Don't Fertilize Tropical Bloomers (like Bougainvillea, Hibiscus, or Plumeria), or Citrus
 - a. Feeding now can trigger tender new growth that's easily damaged by cold snaps. Let these plants naturally slow down and go dormant.
2.  Don't Do Any Hard Pruning on plants (like roses, perennials, shrubs)
 - a. Cutting plants back heavily now encourages new shoots that can be nipped by frost. Wait until late winter or early spring (Feb) to shape or rejuvenate.
3.  Don't Overwater Dormant Plants
 - a. As temperatures cool, plant metabolism slows. Water only when the soil is dry several inches down—especially for succulents, citrus, and established landscapes.
4.  Don't Forget to Protect Cold-Sensitive Plants (it's never too early to think about this)
 - a. Be ready with frost cloths, not plastic! Don't cover too early in the evening (trap heat, not cold air) and uncover once temps rise the next day.
5.  Don't Plant Summer Annuals or Heat-Lovers
 - a. Skip petunias, vinca, or basil. Instead, focus on cool-season color and edibles like pansies, cyclamen, violas, dianthus, kale, and lettuce.
6.  Don't Ignore Container Plants
 - a. Potted plants are more vulnerable to cold and drying winds. Move them near walls, under eaves, or into protected patios before the first freeze.
7.  Mulch Plants, But Don't Mulch Too Deep, or Too Close to Crowns of Plants
 - a. Mulching too deep (you only need 2-3"), or too close to the stems or crowns of plants can cause rot.
8.  Don't Plant Frost-Tender Trees or Palms Right Now
 - a. Young citrus, plumeria, or tropical palms won't establish well before cold weather. Stick to hardy trees (oaks, elms, hollies)
9.  Don't Bag Up All Those Leaves!
 - a. Instead, shred and use them as mulch or add them to your compost pile. They insulate soil, improve texture, and feed beneficial microbes over winter.
10.  Don't Forget to Plan Ahead for Spring
 - a. Avoid missing your cool-season planting window for wildflower seeds or flowering spring bulbs. Plant now and let nature do the chilling.