

Action plan for autumn in the Edible Garden

- Continue to mulch to conserve moisture. Check soil conditions to make sure trees are receiving adequate water. Water well and deeply with dripper's, soak hoses are ideal. Particularly important to keep up moisture to shallow rooted citrus. If they do not receive adequate water in summer/autumn fruit in winter will be pithy and dry. Seaweed foliar feeds or seaweed at the base would be beneficial. Mulching under feijoas will make fruit collection easier.
- Check plant ties to ensure that ties are still secure but not overly tight. Also a great place for bugs to over winter i.e. scale so check and renew if necessary. At this time it's also ideal to check that plants still have secure stakes if they are needed.
- Mow under nut trees so grass is short to allow easy collection of fallen nuts especially if hand raking to collect. Dry nuts out of the sun on an open base (old inner sprung mattress base) Once dried after about a month store in onion sacks away from rodents (ideally hang from rafters)
- Net or bag ripening grapes to ward off birds and wasps!!
- Burn any pruning's or leaf litter lying around under our fruit trees to avoid the spread of overwintering insects and diseases. This is especially important for trees that have suffered leaf curl, brown rot. Remember to remove all mummified fruit as well. Passion Vine Hoppers have been a huge problem this summer so remove any branches that have eggs along their stems, thus reducing the population for future seasons.
- Think about frost protection for citrus, tamarillo and passion fruit. Either spray with liquid frost cloth or make straw bale houses around citrus and then you can secure frost cloth over the top of this.



- Place corrugated cardboard around trunks of pip fruit as a trap for migrating and over wintering pests such as codlin moth (remove in winter and burn) . Or make a sticky trap to stop larvae migrating up or down the trees. Place a band of tinfoil round the tree trunk, secure and then slather in something sticky, grease, vaseline or a product such as tangle trap.
- Spray with winter mineral oil to protect plants such as gooseberry and apples against mites etc. (We recommend Enspray 99 an organic mineral oil)
- Spray pip and stone fruit with Lime Sulphur as a late autumn/pre winter cleanup as it targets pest and diseases (Mites, scale, aphids, leaf curl fungi etc). It is very important to remember it burns off the foliage, lichen pests and diseases so only apply in cool months. Avoid using on apricots which are sulphur sensitive. NEVER mix with other products especially copper and allow 2/4 weeks before applying copper or spraying oil onto fruit trees.
- Last chance for a post-harvest cleanup on brambles and raspberries, prune out the spent canes or mark with ties so you know which ones to remove in winter and tie new season canes in place.

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