

## Fact Sheet:

## WINTERIZING Zone 5-7



The weather not the calendar determines when to winterize the outdoor perennials. When the temperature drops below freezing, take steps to shelter them. Your plants need to be hardy and well protected against the wind and cold. NYC winters can bring temperatures in the teens or below. Take proper measures and you will be rewarded when you spot the first green shoots retuning in the Spring. Here are tips to ensure survival through winter's worst.

First step is moving plant containers back against the wall clustered close together for protection against strong winds. Cover up with mulch (compost\* or packing peanuts) to provide insulation. Place containers inside larger pots ones, fill up spaces between pots with mulch to provide an extra measure of protection. Stop watering and cover up with mulch at the first freeze.

Wrap sides of pots in layers of bubble wrap or burlap covered with plastic to guard against moisture in dormant periods when water requirements are minimal. Clean and put away empty pots. Store empty clay and terracotta pots upside down or on their sides in a dry place so they do not crack or shatter in freezing temperatures. Clean empty concrete, cement or clay containers too large to move and cover with lids or plastic sheeting. Be sure to clear all snow and ice from plants before Spring Planting season. Tropical and flowering plants that do not have a dormant period winter well as House Plants.

*\*Free compost is available at the Central Park Compost Center located at the end of the 102nd St transverse (east side of the through road). Take a shopping cart, a box and shovel or trowel and bring some home for yourself and neighbors. The Parks Department makes it up by working over leaves, branches and other materials.*

**Gardening Information and Updates**  
[www.parkwestcommunitynetwork.org](http://www.parkwestcommunitynetwork.org)

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