

FOOD AND WINE SPECIAL ISSUE

Sunset

THE NEW
**WESTERN
HOLIDAY**
100 WAYS TO WIN THE WINTER

**BEST
WINES
OF THE
WEST**



**BRAISE,
ROAST,
REPEAT!**
Simple, Sumptuous
Recipes, p. 75

**CELEBRATE
IN STYLE**
No-Fuss Holiday
Décor, p. 54

**ULTIMATE
GIFT GUIDE**

Join our
high-desert
holiday on
page 54

NOV/DEC 2019

\$5.99US \$7.50CAN

0 70992 10140 5 12

VISIT US AT SUNSET.COM

Checklist

November/December

NORTHWEST



PLANT

Shop for blueberry bushes, which provide brilliant fall color now and fruit next summer. Look for 'Toro' and 'Olympia'.

Plant heaths (such as *Erica*) for pink, red, or white winter flowers, and heathers (such as *Calluna*) for red, gold, purple, or orange winter foliage.

Scatter wildflower seed in empty plots that have been weeded and amended.



MAINTAIN

Wash garden tools, oil metal parts, sharpen or replace blades, and rub wooden handles with linseed oil. Store in a dry place.

Disconnect hoses, turn off water features, and drain irrigation systems to prevent frost damage.

To transform today's lawn into spring's shovel-ready garden bed, cover a section with cardboard or newspapers and layer with 8 to 10 inches of manure. In spring, till in the manure, and you'll be ready to plant.



PROTECT

As you drain fountains and irrigation systems for winter, detach hoses from freeze-proof hose bibbs. If left attached, water can freeze inside the hose, expand, and burst the water line.

ROCKY MOUNTAINS



PLANT

Plant bulbs until the ground freezes solid. Water the soil thoroughly and cover with 4 inches of shredded bark, fallen leaves, hay, or straw to protect against extreme temperatures and prevent premature foliage during winter warm spells.



"Outdoor windows let more light into seating areas, frame the best views, and showcase distinctive plants."

—THAD ORR, GARDEN EDITOR

Add *Albuca spiralis* 'Frizzle Sizzle' to your indoor bulb collection. Leaves form corkscrew tips, while its pale yellow blossoms exude a vanilla scent. Place bulbs near a sun-filled window and ensure they dry out completely between each drink.



MAINTAIN

Save seeds from annuals like amaranth, cosmos, marigolds, sunflowers, and zinnias. Store in paper envelopes in a cool, dry place until spring.

After watering, detach sprinklers and drain hoses and store them away in a shed or garage. Install frost caps over outdoor faucets to prevent frozen pipes.



Prevent freeze damage to large ceramic containers that are too heavy to bring indoors: remove potting soil, turn each pot upside down, and wrap in bubble wrap.

Fill bird feeders with fresh seed and suet. Clean and refill feeders frequently to prevent spoilage and spread of disease.



HARVEST

Pick pumpkins and winter squash after the vines have shriveled but before hard frost. Leave 3 inches of stem and cure the fruits at room temperature for 10 to 14 days. Store in a dark, dry spot that stays around 50°.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA



PLANT

Replace old, woody lavenders and salvias with fresh plants.

Place cool-season flower starts in the garden, including calendula, forget-me-not, Iceland and Shirley poppies, and violas.



MAINTAIN

Clean up fallen fruit and leaves around trees and camellias to keep diseases and insects from overwintering.



Learn what to plant when with our year-round checklists: [sunset.com/checklists](https://www.sunset.com/checklists).

IDEA WE LOVE

Outdoor Windows

Just as they can in a home, windows placed within garden walls and hedges allow more light into seating areas and spotlight prime views and stellar plants—no glass required. Think of it as addition by subtraction: If you're designing a new garden, consider adding a window to dramatically frame a focal point in the distance or add partial shade to a seating area. In the garden of this Sonoma County home, the green ivy helps the wall blend into the background, driving all the attention to the window and the stunning view beyond. Design by Lucas & Lucas (*lucas-lucas.com*).



Spray peach and nectarine trees with a copper-based fungicide to prevent and treat peach-leaf curl.

Dig up dahlia tubers to prevent rot and freezing. Prune foliage to a 4-inch stalk, cut a 2-foot circle around each plant with a spade, and pry up each clump. Let dry for a few hours. Cover with sand and store in a cool, dark place.

HARVEST
Resist gathering all of your citrus at once. Many varieties become sweeter the longer they're left on the tree.

Pick persimmons when fully orange, keeping the green or brownish calyx on top. Allow to ripen indoors. 'Hachiya' ripen

until very soft; 'Fuyu' can be eaten while firm.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

PLANT
To encourage strong root systems, sow vegetables while the soil retains some warmth. Winter options include leafy greens, root vegetables, and alliums

Establish perennial herbs like chives, marjoram, oregano, rosemary, sage, and thyme now and harvest through winter.

Scatter wildflowers such as baby blue eyes, California poppy, and phacelia where you want them to naturalize.

MAINTAIN
Deeply irrigate fall-planted trees and bushes to ensure good root formation prior to dormancy.

Spread manure and compost throughout the garden to enrich soil and jump-start spring plant growth.

Stop watering and feeding roses, and mulch them with manure and compost. Prune them lightly to remove the long, bloomed-out canes, but save hard pruning until January, when plants are fully dormant.

SOUTHWEST

PLANT
Throughout the Southwest, garlic is an easy and reliable crop to grow over winter. In low- and mid-elevation areas, plant cloves before the end of the month for a spring harvest.

Mediterranean herbs lend a lush look to desert gardens and add fresh flavor to winter soups and stews. In low-desert climates, set out Italian parsley, oregano, purple sage, rosemary, sweet marjoram, and thyme.

There's also time to add cool-season annual flowers to your plot or containers, including calendula, foxglove, pansy, snapdragon, and sweet alyssum. Clarkia, nasturtium, and sweet peas are also great additions but should be planted by seed.



PLANT WE LOVE

Spineless Prickly Pear

Opuntia cactanapa 'Ellisiana' is completely spineless, so it's the perfect plant for gardeners who love cactus but don't want to get poked. This deer-resistant variety forms a 3-foot-tall by 4- to 6-foot-wide clump of paddles. It's cold-hardy down to zero degrees in addition to being heat-tolerant. Yellow flowers bloom come summer.

Slender full-sun beds, like the area between the street and sidewalk, known as the hell strip, are notoriously difficult spots for permanent plantings. Try sowing wildflower seeds in those tough areas with proven and cheerful natives like desert marigold, golden dyssodia, and Mexican gold poppy.

MAINTAIN
Cut back, rejuvenate, and shape established Mediterranean plants such as germander (*Teucrium* genus), lavender, and rosemary. To rejuvenate old, overgrown woody plants, prune back to the lowest new growth.

Near the end of the month, gather frost cloth, blankets, cardboard boxes, and leaves to use as plant protection. In the low desert, plants that often need protection from cold include acacia species (particularly willow acacia), aloe species, bougainvillea, citrus trees, and lantana.