

## End of Season Gardening Questions Class #2 CFAES

- especially interested in tips for container gardens - I have created a bunch of content on Growing Franklin to assist with that. Check out the [container gardening article](#) and [recorded class webinar](#).
- Is Vinca "safe" as a ground cover between and among other plants, or does it compromise the others' access to nutrients? – Vinca or any other ground cover would compete for nutrients and water since they grow in the same space.
- As a young woman we canned a number of our crops together and labelled them end-of-garden. Do you prefer to can or do you freeze – I do both. I do more canning in cold weather and freeze summer vegetables.
- when is best time to plant tulips and surprise lillies? - Tulips are best planted in fall, Lily plants can be planted in fall or spring.
- Pruning, fertilization, winter tolerant options – I am unsure of how to answer this, there are a vast array of planting options.
- Tips for storage of pots/how to prep soil before winter time. How to dispose of plants? – Clean off the organic matter then sterilize with a 5% bleach solution. Dispose of diseased plant material in the trash, good organic matter in a compost pile.
- Should I spread poultry litter on my garden beds before winter? - My preferred method would be to compost the poultry litter first then when fully done, incorporate that in fall prior to next spring.
- Are there vegetables/herbs that do well in the fall and could be planted now in containers? – You bet, you can do lettuce, radish, spinach, bok choy, arugula. Most of the cool weather crops.
- Any special recommendations for above ground containers/fabric bags? – Keep them off bare soil. Amend with compost as needed.
- Does it harm perennials to cut them down in the fall before the foliage has died down? – It may harm them. This is the time they are building up root reserves of energy for next years growth.
- We heard that one shouldn't compost heirloom variety plants, due to the likelihood of them carrying disease/pests. Is this true? – If the plant material is healthy and there are no seed heads then it can go in the compost pile.
- What would you recommend as a garden cover crop for winter? – Easy mix is oats and winter peas. A harder to manage mix is winter rye with or without clover, vetch and radish.
- Is there any way to preserve perennials in a window box? – Maybe, there are a million perennials, it totally depends on the variety of plant. Research the needs for your specific plant variety. Some are cold tolerant some may need help over winter.

- Why have the leaves on my tomato plants turned yellow and fallen off starting from the base of the plant and moving upwards? – For that I suspect fungal disease like early or late blight. It is common for tomatoes to get those diseases this time of year.
- Should annual plants be dug up from the ground at the end of the season? – Most annuals are done at the end of the season and have completed their life cycle and want to go to seed.
- What are the best cover crops for winter planting? - See the prior question
- What is the significance of any to seed quality in homeowner's gardens? Are more expensive seeds worth the cost? – Maybe. If it is a common variety, it probably does not matter. If it is a new variety or hybrid with new genetics it is probably worth it. Seed companies try to improve the plant varieties constantly and some of the new stuff out there has really great characteristics.