



## SPRING SUCCESS BY WINTERIZING YOUR GARDEN

It's time to dig in and winterize your garden, so you can reap the rewards of a bountiful spring. Whether you have a full-sized garden plot, or window boxes and container plants, don't skip out on the winter prep. You'll have a lot more work to do if you wait until spring to get your hands dirty again.

Here are 4 ways to prevent pollution and have a happy garden:

### Start Before Spring

If you're new to gardening and want a spring garden, start early! Plan what you'd like to grow and order seeds ahead of time. While you're planning, consider the placement of your plant varieties. Some spring crops don't thrive when planted next to each other, like snow peas—they can be planted near tomatoes without issue, but onions and garlic tend to stunt their growth.

### Get Excited About Mulch Mayhem!

Mulch is a great way to ensure your soil stays happy during chillier months. Mulch can prevent weeds and be used in more than just your garden—use it throughout your whole landscape to prevent water from evaporating as quickly in summer, meaning you can water less often! Many local governments provide free or reduced-cost mulch; start at <https://ccwater.com/460/Landscape-Mulch-Coupons> to see what's available near you.

### Banish Weeds Now

When you pull weeds in winter, you prevent the seeds from spreading and multiplying—saving yourself the hassle of pulling hundreds of weeds come spring. Mulching any bare garden areas can be a simple and effective way to prevent winter annual weeds from germinating.

### Say Goodbye to Harsh Pesticides

Winter months won't stop pests from preying on your plants. But there are less-toxic solutions that offer pest control without sending chemicals into our waters. Pesticides linger, entering our storm drains through runoff when it rains and traveling untreated to local water bodies. Find eco-friendly solutions for common pests at <https://ourwaterourworld.org/>. No matter what you use, always follow label directions and avoid use before rain or on windy days.

With these winter garden tips, you can set yourself up for success in the spring. Share your garden photos with us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)! For more pollution prevention and gardening tips, visit [www.cccleanwater.org](http://www.cccleanwater.org).