



Winterizing your raised gardens: How to prepare raised beds for the cold winter weather

By: Mary Jane Duford,
April 27, 2023
Home For the Harvest

Winterizing raised garden beds is an important part of the annual cycle in the backyard vegetable garden. Now is the time to set yourself up for success in the future by helping to foster healthy garden soil and take good care of your gardening equipment.

In this article, we'll cover

1. Pull spent plants from raised beds and compost/discard
2. Remove and store plant supports
3. Smooth & top-dress soil surface of raised bed for next year
4. Plant winter crops and overwintering vegetables
5. Fill in empty bed areas with winter cover crops
6. Plan for leaf removal and snow removal in raised bed area during winter

1. Pull spent plants from raised beds and compost/discard
The first step in winterizing raised garden beds is to pull up and compost spent warm-season plants. Some plants will be killed by frost,

while others will have finished their life cycle by this point in the year. Compost the spent plants unless they appear contaminated with disease. Plant matter composts most quickly when it is cut up into small pieces rather than just dumped on the compost heap. Make notes about each crop as you clear the beds. Note down the productivity of the plants, any pest issues, and anything else you'd like to remember for next year's warm growing season. This is also a great time to do any last-minute seed saving that you didn't do as part of your September gardening chores.

2. Remove and store plant supports
Fall is the time to remove, clean, and store temporary plant supports like stakes and trellises as well as other delicate structures such as garden ornaments and unused row cover hoops. These supports will last for years if properly cared for, so it makes sense to store them in a clean, dry location over the winter. Keep them out of the elements and they'll last much longer than if they're left in the blowing snow and rain.



3. Smooth & top-dress soil surface of raised bed for next year
Once the spent plants and temporary supports are gone, it's time to smooth the surface of the soil in the raised bed. Use a hand cultivator or handheld rake to create a reasonably-flat surface on each bed.

Once each bed is straightened up, apply a top dressing of 1" of home-made compost or leaf mould as the top layer on each raised bed. This soil conditioning is one of the secrets to winterizing raised garden beds well. Your soil will be full of nutrients and will have improved structure in time for the next growing season.

4. Plant winter crops and overwintering vegetables
Fall is the perfect time to plant crops that can be harvested throughout the winter and into the following spring. Some common fall-planted crops for raised beds include root crops like garlic, radish, and carrots, as well as leafy greens like lettuce, kale, and gourmet greens.

or cold frames. Some raised beds come with cold-weather attachments so you can easily grow veggies all year long, while others can be retrofitted and improved with season-extension accessories. Make a plan for appropriate season-extension structures as part of winterizing your raised garden beds.

5. Fill in empty bed areas with winter cover crops
Once your winter crops are planted, take notice of any areas of bare soil left over. These areas are prime real estate for green manure cover crops! These beneficial groundcover plants crowd out weeds while adding organic matter to the soil. It generally turns out that bare soil will grow SOMETHING if left to its own devices. It's better to grow a nice green manure crop than to let the weeds take over.

6. Plan for leaf removal and snow removal in raised bed area during winter
The final step in winterizing raised garden beds is to make plans for any required leaf removal and/or snow removal.

Continued on page 2...

INDEX

p.2	Winterizing Raised Gardens
p.3	Adding a Pop of Color
p.4	Preparing Your Garden
p.5	Safe & Effective Clean-Up
p.6	7 Uses for Fallen Leaves
p.7	Low Maintenance Trees





Winterizing your raised gardens

Continued from page 1



Share Your Gardening Tips!

Would you consider yourself an avid gardener and you have tips and tricks you'd like to share? Or maybe you have a funny gardening story you'd like tell? Have someone you know who's been gardening for what seems like FOREVER and you'd like to see them recognized in the community? Whatever the case, share your tale with us!

Submit your story or article ideas for the next issue of **Home & Garden** to

editor@paynesvillepress.com or call us at 320-243-3772
P.O. Box 54, 211 Washburne Ave. Paynesville, MN 56362

These items can certainly be left on top of the raised beds for a low-maintenance approach to winterizing raised garden beds, but most gardeners tend to at least remove the majority of leaves, as well as the snow from any active areas of the garden.

Remove the leaves from the bed as they appear and compost them to make the leaf mould. You'll be able to use the leaf mould from these leaves to top-dress the beds with compost next fall. Leaves compost most quickly if shredded first with a mulching leaf vacuum or mower.

Snow is actually a wonderful insulator and does not necessarily need to be removed. Areas planted with overwintering garlic can be left with a blanket of snow all winter. That said, any areas which are actively harvested will benefit from snow removal. Supports like plastic poly-

tunnels and glass cold frames may not be able to hold the snow load and should be regularly cleared.

About the Author: Mary Jane Duford is a Master Gardener and founder of the gardening website Home for the Harvest. She has been featured by Better Homes & Gardens, Real Simple, Good Housekeeping, Mother Earth News, and the National Garden Bureau. Mary Jane lives with her family in the Okanagan Valley, Canada.

Home for the Harvest
A publication of Duford Digital Inc.
2933 30th Ave, Suite #104
Vernon, BC, Canada, V1T 2B8
Copyright © 2023 Home for the Harvest

For more great articles about flower gardening, vegetable gardening, plant & lawn care, visit Home for the Harvest at:

www.homefortheharvest.com

Show Us YOUR Garden!

What made you interested in gardening? Does your garden consist more of flowers or vegetables? Submit pictures and tell us about your garden for the next issue of Spring Home & Garden! You can send details to: editor@paynesvillepress.com or call us at 320-243-3772 • P.O. Box 54, 211 Washburne Ave. Paynesville, MN 56362

Blue Stem Flowers & Vegetable Farm

20% OFF Trees, Shrubs & Perennials Remaining In Stock!

480 N. Grande Street, Paynesville (Next to Fleet Supply)
320-243-2348
bluestemflowers@gmail.com | www.bluestemflowers.com

Gilk

Plumbing, Heating & A/C, LLC
Richmond, MN

WWW.GILKPLUMBING.COM
320-597-3200
EMERGENCY #320-293-1881

FINANCING OPTIONS AVAILABLE*
18 MONTHS WITH NO INTEREST FOR QUALIFYING APPLICANTS

Now is the time to schedule your winterization projects.

SPRINKER BLOW OUTS

Book before **October 1st** & qualify for **Early Bird Sprinkler Blow Out Special!**

LAKE HOME WINTERIZATION

- Sprinkler Line Blow Outs
- Water Line Blow Outs
- Drain Maintenance
- Vent Inspections

Protect Your Investment!

(*Early Bird Discounts are only applicable to appointments scheduled and performed by October 1st, 2023. Any appointments scheduled after the before mentioned date will not qualify for the discount.)

24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICES AVAILABLE

Minnesota's Best Kept Secret

LOST & FOUND

Clothing & Jewelry, Home Decor, Seasonal Items, Memorials & Religious Items, Spa & Kitchen Accessories, Antiques,..... and more!

We're located at
200 State Street N
Eden Valley, MN
Mon.-Sat. | 9:30am - 5:30pm

320-453-5678

Add a pop of color to your garden for the coming fall and winter seasons

Winter weather comes on the heels of a vibrant, colorful autumn season. Shortly after fall foliage falls to the ground, nature tends to greet us with a considerably less colorful palette. What's more, much of the wildlife and plants that make spring, summer and fall so awe-inspiring tend to hibernate in winter, making it more difficult to find bright spots on drab days.

If you think that winter means the end of beautiful garden colors, think again. There are plenty of cool-season flowers and other plants that can add a pop of color to brighten your day. These flowers provide color right when most people need it most.

In areas where winter is not marked by a deep freeze, homeowners can plant pansies, snapdragons, English daisies, calendula, and other blooms from early fall through late winter. These plants will survive the cold, keeping containers, borders and gardens full of color.

Camellias are a type of flower that bloom in fall and winter in hues of red, pink, coral, white, and more. The plants are evergreen and will grow from shrubs or small trees when fully established.

Homeowners who live in climates marked by cold winters can opt for plants that offer color but without flowers. According to HGTV, these include cabbages and kales, which can survive most cold winters and lend an interesting texture to a winter landscape bed.

Of course, no list of winter's colorful plants would be complete without holly, which offers an eye-catching display of evergreen leaves and bright red berries, though sometimes the berries are golden. Either way, they can be a sight for sore eyes on gray winter days.

For more ideas, visit a local garden center to learn about plants that can add vibrant color to a landscape, even as autumn transitions to winter.



Come and look through our
LARGE SELECTION OF TREES
ALL TREES ON SALE NOW!
Shade, Ornamental, & Evergreen

*Proud to be a part of the
Community for 45 years!*

**Quality-Selection
Knowledge-Experience**

**ALL TREES
25% OFF**



270 Lake Ave N, Spicer, MN 56288
Watch for us just off of Highway 23!

1-800-992-8866 • 320-796-2178
Mon-Fri: 8-5 • Sat: 8-4



LUMBER • HARDWARE • RENTAL • PAINT

**Offering a wide selection of building
materials, hardware, plumbing,
electric, paint, supplies, and rentals**



Your Home Builder Specialist

Paynesville 320-243-4202
www.mmlumberrental.com



Prepare your garden for the coming winter's onslaught of snow, ice & wind

Individuals who don't live near the equator or in another warm climate know that winter will rear its chilly head this year. Cold temperatures and snowy conditions may be excellent for skiing and sledding, but gardeners recognize these conditions are not ideal for their plants. The inevitable slowing of activity in the garden during fall marks a time to shift attention from constant plant care to preparing the landscape for next season. It may be tempting to simply let Mother Nature take over, but a little pre-winter TLC can ensure gardens make it through winter unscathed.

Remove spent plants

Decomposing organic material is the basis for compost and other fertilizers. However, vegetable plants that are left to sit can lead to decay in the garden. Decaying plants can serve as hosts for pest populations and diseases. Rotting vegetables also can drop unwanted seeds into the soil, which eventually can strip nutrients that normally would go to next year's crops.

Ornamental plants and perennials

can be cut back in fall. Cut down stalks and remove leaves.

Plant a cover crop

The gardening resource This Is My Garden recommends planting a cover crop to set the stage for a successful spring. A cover crop protects the soil and can return nutrients to it. When the soil is bare during winter, weed seeds can easily blow in and lie in wait, ultimately becoming a problem during the ensuing year. Cover crops can include clover or field peas, which will increase the levels of available nitrogen.

Amend the soil

Fall is a perfect time to add soil amendments, such as manure and compost. These fertilizers will add nutrients and break down gradually, enriching the soil over the winter.

Replenish mulch

Gardeners may have added mulch around shrubs and other areas of the landscape early in the season because it is attractive. But mulch also does much to reduce water loss and protect the soil from ero-



sion. It may inhibit weed growth as well. Replacing mulch when the mercury drops can insulate the soil, which helps to regulate soil temperature. A thick layer of mulch around root vegetables left in the garden can offer protection against hard frosts.

Divide bulbs

Divide plant bulbs and plant them where you want flowers like daffodils and tulips to grow in the spring.

Prune dormant plants

Wait until plants are dormant to

prune them and adjust their shape. Most shrubs and trees should be pruned in late winter, right before new growth.

Move potted plants

Bring delicate plants into a sheltered area, such as a greenhouse or indoor garage, so they can continue to thrive during the winter. Fall and winter still provide opportunities to spend time in the garden. At this point in the year, gardeners can prepare landscapes for the next season.

OFF THE WALL

HOME DECOR & MORE

120 CENTRAL AVENUE • WATKINS, MN

The 'Occasional Shop' with new, used, & overstock furniture, home decor, designer handbags, jewelry and a whole lot more!

We're Open Weekends

FRIDAY | NOON TO 5 P.M.

SATURDAY | 10 A.M. TO 5 P.M.

SUNDAY | 10 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

COME CHECK US OUT
FOLLOW US ON

[facebook](#)



Local Banking

Proud to Serve the Area for More Than 100 Years.

MEMBER FDIC

PERENNIAL BANK

www.perennialbank.com

PAYNESVILLE GARDEN CENTER & LANDSCAPE

Paver Patios • Retaining Walls • Bedding Plants
Trees & Shrubs • Decorative Rock & Mulch • Tree Moving
Stump Removal • Landscape & Perennial Installation

STOP BY TO BROWSE OUR SELECTION!

We have fantastic colors now showing in our shrubs and tree lot... and everything a homeowner needs for doing fall projects! We carry screened black dirt, landscape rock & mulch, bulk grass seed, Greenview® lawn fertilizer and fall weed controls.

FALL IS FOR PLANTING!

320-243-3509

185 Hwy 55, Paynesville

HOURS: Mon - Fri 8am - 6pm

Sat 8am - Noon

Delivery Available

Fall Fun Everywhere!

Safe and effective ways to clean up the leaves littering your property

Removing leaves from the yard is a task that homeowners must perform each fall. Thousands upon thousands of leaves can drop from a single tree. Multiply that by the number of trees on a property, and it's no surprise the task of leaf cleanup can seem so daunting. Furthermore, not all leaves are shed at the same time, so several cleanup sessions may be necessary before the last leaf is banished from the yard.

Just like removing snow, leaf cleanup can be a taxing job if done by hand. For people unaccustomed to exercise, cleaning up leaves can turn into quite a workout. According to the Discovery Health Calorie Counter, raking leaves for one hour can burn nearly 292 calories. Shoulders and arms will feel the burn.

Raking leaves is considered moderate physical activity, similar to brisk walking. Those who find themselves straining or out of breath should take a break, and these tips also make the job safer and easier.



- **Wear layers when cleaning up leaves.** It may be cool at first, but it's easy to work up a sweat after raking for awhile. Layers can be peeled off so as not to get overheated or risk hypothermia from sweating in chilly temps.
- **Pay attention to your posture while raking.** James Weinstein, chairman

of the Department of Orthopedics at Dartmouth Medical School, recommends forming a wide base with the feet and holding the rake slightly toward the end of the handle with one hand three-quarters of the way down the handle from the other. Do not twist the spine; move your entire body. Avoid overuse of muscles on one side of the body by switch-

- ing sides periodically.
- **Do not try to rake or blow leaves on windy days.** Wind will only make the task that much more difficult, which could lead to overworking oneself.
- **Avoid overfilling bags.** For those who plan to mulch and bag leaves, remember that compressed leaves can get heavy pretty quickly. Do not over-fill bags, as they can be hard to move or bring to a recycling center. Using a leaf blower to push leaves into piles will reduce the strenuousness of the task, but leaf blowers can be heavy and noisy and gas-powered blowers can produce a considerable amount of exhaust.

Raking leaves can be quite a chore. It is important that homeowners take steps to prevent injury while cleaning up leaves in their yards.



JOIN US FOR OUR 4TH ANNUAL

FALL festival

AUTUMN WINE FESTIVAL

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH
THRU SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1ST
11:00 A.M. - 9:00 P.M.

*Enjoy live music, delicious food,
fantastic wine and much more fun!*

*SORRY, NO RESERVATIONS



Rolling Forks
VINEYARDS

320.634.7655
21505 Selnes Road,
Glenwood, MN 56334
rollingforksvineyards.com



Quilting on the Crow

Edge to Edge Long Arm Quilting

115 Augusta Avenue
Paynesville, MN 56362
Cell: 320-492-0353
Main: 320-243-4399

Renae Wirkkula
Barn quilting classes
available on request!

Call to make your appointment today!

QUILTINGONTHECROW@GMAIL.COM WWW.QUILTINGONTHECROW.COM

Stockmen's

GREENHOUSE & GARDEN CENTER

2 Great Locations!
LITCHFIELD & HUTCHINSON

Weekly Specials on
Facebook & Instagram



Gift Cards Available Online at:
www.stockmensgreenhouse.com

- ☀ Annual Flowers
- ☀ Vegetables & Herbs
- ☀ Fruit & Shade Trees
- ☀ Bulk Mulch & Rock

- ☀ Perennials
- ☀ Shrubs & Roses
- ☀ Garden Decor
- ☀ Gift Cards



320-693-7787 • 60973 US Hwy 12, Litchfield, MN
320-234-7673 • 1150 MN Hwy 7 E, Hutchinson, MN





Seven ingenious uses for the fallen leaves laying in your yard

By the time autumn hits full swing, many trees will have shed their leaves for the season, and the last vestiges of red, yellow and orange magic will have faded to brown. Raking, blowing and collecting leaves becomes the primary chores of lawn and yard maintenance, and presents most homeowners with large piles of gathered leaves to tend to.

It is impossible to count just how many leaves fall to the ground each year, or just how many pounds of leaves get collected curbside, but the numbers are substantial. Cleaning up leaves is considerable work, but not all of those leaves need to be carted away. In fact, there are several different uses of leaves that can be beneficial.

- 1. Spread leaves as a protective mulch to cover tender perennials or root crops/bulbs in the ground. The leaves will form a natural insulating cover that keeps the soil and the plants within a bit warmer over winter.
- 2. Create a pile of leaves that will

break down and form a crumbly, compost-like material called leaf mold. Even though leaf mold may sound like a blight, it's actually a good amendment to garden soil, improving its structure and ability to hold water. Leaf mold also attracts beneficial organisms that are vital in healthy soil.

- 3. Brown leaves can be added to green materials in compost piles to improve the health of the compost being formed. According to the healthy living resource Care2, the ideal ratio is 75 percent brown to 25 percent green materials in compost. Turn compost piles regularly to aerate them.
- 4. Store dried, mulched leaves in a dry spot so they can be used in the spring as a weed barrier for spring plantings. They will keep weeds at bay and help retain soil moisture to ensure small sprouts have the resources to grow.
- 5. Use shredded leaves as a lawn supplement. Pass a lawn mower over leaves left on the lawn to break them down into pieces too small to



- 6. rake. This will help keep the lawn healthy throughout the winter without blocking out needed sunlight.
- 7. Bag dried leaves and pack them tightly together in cold areas of the home, such as basements or garages. They can act as added insulation. Bags of leaves also can be placed around planting containers to protect them from frost.

7. Gather a few of the best-looking leaves and preserve them. Use an iron on a low setting and press leaves between two pieces of waxed paper until the waxed paper seals together. Or use clear contact paper to achieve the same effect. Fallen leaves can be used in many different ways throughout the year.

SJP DESIGNS

SARA JO POLLOCK
INTERIOR DESIGNER

[P] 320.593.3031
[E] SARAJO.POLLOCK@GMAIL.COM
823 N. SIBLEY AVE. • LITCHFIELD, MN 55355



RESIDENTIAL &
COMMERCIAL DESIGN

FULL TIME DESIGNER SINCE 2006
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN
INTERIOR DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION MGMT

DESIGN CONSULTATIONS MAY INCLUDE:

- TILE & CUSTOM TILE DESIGNS
- FLOORING: CARPET, WOOD, TILE, VINYL, ETC.
- HUNTER DOUGLAS WINDOW COVERINGS
- PAINT COLOR SELECTIONS
- ART & ACCESSORY SELECTIONS & PLACEMENT
- CABINETRY STYLES & FINISH SELECTIONS
- EXTERIOR SELECTIONS
- LIGHT FIXTURE SELECTIONS & ELECTRICAL WALK THROUGHS
- PLUMBING SELECTIONS & PLUMBING WALK THROUGHS
- COUNTERTOP SELECTIONS

CONSULTATION FEE \$45 PER HOUR - MINIMUM ONE HOUR.
CONSULTATION TIME SPENT ON FLOORING, TILE AND/OR
BLINDS IS WAIVED IF THOSE MATERIALS ARE PURCHASED
THROUGH SJP DESIGNS LLC.

FALL SELECTIONS AVAILABLE NOW

- Iron Orchid Designs Transfers, molds, print inlays, stamps, ink & more
- Country Chic Paint Chalk style all-in-one furniture paint



Vintage, Antiques,
Collectibles, Unique and
Repurposed Decor & More...

312 1st Street North,
Cold Spring, MN 56320

Located in the same parking lot as Subway!

612-839-7413

Open Wed thru Fri: 11a.m. -6p.m
Sat: 10a.m.-4p.m.

vintagelanedecor.com • www.facebook.com/VintageLaneDecor

Get lots of use from your local paper!



NEWSPAPER SEED-STARTER POTS

You can grow dozens or even hundreds of new plants to fill your yard and garden with great flavors and bright color for the cost of just a few packets of seed. And you don't even need to pay for seed trays or planting pots. Grab a few sections of newspaper out of the recycling bin, and in just a few minutes, you can turn them into perfect containers for starting seeds.

Paynesville
Press

EDEN VALLEY
WATKINS
VOICE
YOUR VOICE... BE HEARD

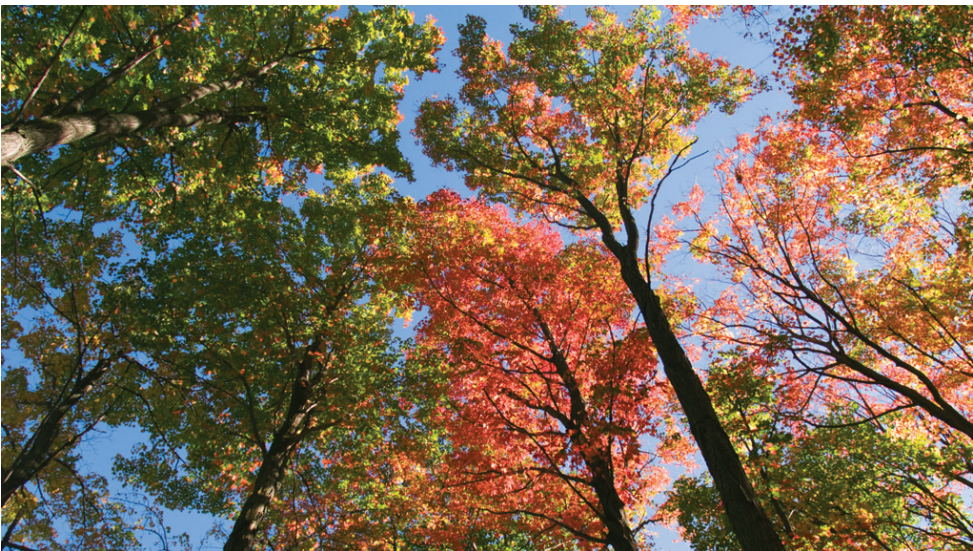
(320) 243-3772
editor@paynesvillepress.com
editor@evvoice.com

3 potentially low-maintenance trees to consider for your property

Few things in nature are as breathtaking as a beautiful landscape. That beauty is perhaps one reason why many homeowners spend so much time and expend so much effort on their lawns and gardens. Though plenty of homeowners love spending time in the yard, others may not be so inclined. For the latter group, low-maintenance trees can be just what the doctor ordered.

Low-maintenance trees can provide the beauty nature-loving homeowners desire without all the extra work of more needy plants. It's always best to consult a local landscaping professional prior to planting to ensure a tree will thrive in a given climate. In preparation for that consultation, homeowners can study this list of three low-maintenance trees while recognizing that all trees may need a little extra TLC in extreme weather.

1. Jacaranda: Instantly identifiable by its purple blooms, the jacaranda tree is native to South America, which makes it ideal in warm climates. The jacaranda tree is considered a shade tree and if or when



it sheds its leaves, those leaves can typically be mowed, saving homeowners the work of raking them. However, the online home and garden resource The Spruce notes that jacaranda trees can require substantial maintenance when planted near surfaces where people walk, such as driveways and patios.

So when planting jacaranda trees, it's ideal to do so in locations where falling leaves will land exclusively on grass.

2. American arborvitae: The Arbor Day Foundation® notes that the American arborvitae requires almost no care when it's used as a hedge or a screen. That's a popular use for this versatile specimen with a narrow, pyramid shape. Though it does not provide the bright blast of color offered by the jacaranda, the American arborvitae creates an elegant look that offers considerable privacy as well.

3. Japanese red maple: The Home Depot notes that the Japanese red

maple are very low-maintenance trees that can adapt to various soil types and grow in an assortment of light conditions. During dry periods, however, the ADF notes the importance of keeping soil consistently moist. Various types of soil can accommodate the Japanese red maple, so this is a consideration for any homeowner looking to add some color to their lawns without a lot of extra work.

When considering new trees for a property, homeowners can easily be persuaded by the beauty of the tree. Though that's worthy of consideration, homeowners who want low-maintenance trees should speak to a gardening professional about the work required to maintain a tree's beauty throughout the year, especially during periods of drought or other adverse conditions.

In addition, ask the gardening pro to recommend non-invasive trees. Planting invasive trees can be harmful and cause damage to surrounding plants, which can be costly and time-consuming to address.



Specialists in Many Service Areas

- Radon Testing & Mitigation
- Plumbing
- Heating & A/C
- Comfort Club Maintenance Program
- Water Treatment Systems
- Water Softeners
- Reverse Osmosis & Distillers
- Iron Filters

320-243-3644

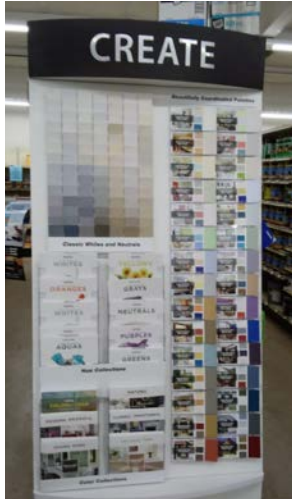
www.vossplumbing.com



#107252 RMT - NRPP Certified
#107251 RT - #58961PM

FLEET SUPPLY

YOUR COMPLETE FARM & HOME STORE
Stop in to see what our ALL NEW paint station has to offer!



COUPON

FLEET SUPPLY
YOUR COMPLETE FARM & HOME STORE

\$10.00 OFF
PER GALLON
OF
PAINT

Valid Sept 6, 2023 - Sept. 24, 2023

** Coupon Valid Only in Paynesville.

Paynesville Store ONLY.
West Hwy. 55
Paynesville, MN 56362
320-243-3556

True Value

SCHU'S

PUMPING SERVICE LLC.

**Serving Central MN for all
your septic pumping needs!**

Located in Eden Valley, MN

Open 24/7 • Emergency Calls
We pump septic, holding tanks,
and lift stations

Josh Schumacher | Owner and Operator

Call to schedule your appointment today!

[320] 298-1154



**WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME
YOUR SEPTIC TANK WAS CLEANED?**

RUSTIC DESIGNS FLOWER FARM
is presenting it's 4th Annual

Fall Harvest Fest

Sunday, September 17th • 9-3pm

PICK YOUR OWN FLOWERS!

Dahlias • Sunflowers • and many more

CHECK OUT OUR SELECTION OF:

Fall Mums • Pumpkins • Gourds • & Indian Corn

LOCAL
CRAFT & PRODUCE
Vendors

Padua Pub
serving great food!



Follow Us On
FACEBOOK
For Event Updates!
@rusticdesignflowerfarm