

# Fall plant tips—for moving them indoors, for frost and for spring

Beneficial Landscapes from the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum

**FOR PLANTS YOU WANT TO ENJOY INDOORS** over the winter, give them a chance to adjust by bringing them indoors while windows can still be open and temps are similar indoors & out. They'll adjust much better than waiting until a frost is expected and being brought into a dry, heated home. Hose them off and/or use insecticidal spray to remove insects. You can also take 4-6" cuttings and put them in water to pot later. More at <https://www.thespruce.com/tips-for-bringing-outdoor-plants-indoors-1402643>

**TO PROTECT PLANTS FROM A MILD FROST**, simply cover them with a sheet or blanket. For lower temps, put plastic over the fabric to retain warm air from soil. To keep them even longer... water the soil, mulch base and/or full plant and surround with bales of hay, strings of Christmas lights or warm jugs of water. Or put them inside a glass-topped cold frame. Then uncover them for sunlight and airflow when temps are milder. More at <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/plant-problems/environmental/protect-plants-in-freeze.htm>

**AFTER IT FREEZES**, gather roots from plants like elephant ears, cannas, calla lilies, dahlias, glads and caladiums for next year--**AFTER** a light frost has killed the foliage--by cutting off the dead foliage, brushing off soil, removing rotten spots on the bulb/tuber/rhizome/corm, then leave them in a warm dry place for a week or more. Once dried, they can be stored in paper bags, newspapers, bark or peat moss and kept in a cool, dry place till next spring. More at <https://ipm.missouri.edu/MEG/2008/11/Storage-of-Tender-Bulbs/>

