Alabama Outdoor Classroom
November Maintenance Checklist

During the month of November, you may want to use the following maintenance checklist to help keep your outdoor classroom in great shape.

- Put a layer of 2-3” of leaves around shrubs and trees out to a distance of approximately 2-3 feet. This will help reduce evaporation and also help protect the plants from freezing weather, weed-eaters and lawn mowers.

- Plant spring blooming bulbs (daffodils, tulips, and hyacinths within the next month so that they will bloom this coming spring. Make sure you plant them at the depth listed on the package.

- Remove the dead annual vegetable and flowering plants from your gardens and either compost or put them in the trash. This will help reduce the risk of overwintering harmful pathogens and pests in the garden.

- If you are planning on providing supplemental feed for birds, November is a good time to start as many migratory birds are already here or will be arriving soon, especially with the upcoming cold weather. Just remember to clean the feeders using a bleach and water solution or bleach wipes at least once a week.

- If you have potted plants that are left over from the summer, you may want to bring them in whenever the weather is predicted to fall into the 30’s, especially if it is going to be around 35 degrees or less. If they are winter hardy, you won’t need to worry.

- Throw a sheet or blanket over garden plants if the temperature is supposed to reach the mid-20’s or stay below freezing throughout the day. Most fall garden vegetables can handle temperatures above the mid-20’s (cabbage, broccoli, turnips, and collards)

- Do not prune woody shrubs or trees at this time unless it is necessary. Pruning should wait until late winter or early spring. This is especially true if you are going to prune them heavily.

- The next 4 months are a great time to plant woody vines, shrubs and trees. By planting now and keeping the plants watered, they will have time to establish a good root system before spring arrives.

- Stockpile fall leaves for use in the garden next spring and summer.

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