GARDENING

throughout November Garden work continues

GARDEN



Are planting, water them, then apply a slow-release bulb food fertilizer on the top of the ground to supply nutrients for the second year's bloom. The bulbs already have enough food for the coming spring bloom.

Pruning, mowing

Roses shouldn't be pruned until spring; late fall pruning often will result in more severe

otten will result in more severe winter kill.

Begin winter protection just after the first hard frost. To protect them from the changing temperatures, mound the soil up about 8 to 10 inches around the crown of the plant. You can also use a mulch.

se a mulch. If you choose to have addition-

all protection, straw or peat moss late to plant bulb s, although the Netherlands Flower Bulb Information Center recommends the pt in wind planting time is Sept. 15 to Nov. 15. To mperatures of 40 to 50 degrees Fahrenheit water them, water them,

toois to be ready when it's time to prune.

Keep mowing the grass until it stops growing. A mulching mower can be used to shred the fallen leaves while the grass is mowed, then they can be left in place.

mowed, then they can be left in place.

The compost pile will appreciate chopped fallen leaves, also. Use black plastic garbage bags filled with leaves or surround the compost heap with bales of straw to 'heat up' the pile so it will cook.

After the ground is frozen, use mulch or compost to protect plants during the cold months and to keep moisture around the roots. This also insulates them.

If you have bought potted chrysanthemums to enhance the

autumn decor indoors, Yoder Brothers Inc., a major chrysan-themum windosaler, recom-mends that such mums be-watered two to three times a

water day to three times a week.

Many times we are advised to water when the soil is dry, but usually the plant wilts when it's dry. Let the water run through the drainage holes and collect in a tray. After a few minutes, pour

out that water.

Nosemary

Many of us have no luck keeping a rosemary plant alive indoors during the winter. Tom De Baggio, owner of T. De Baggio, owner of T. De Bagth that rosemary does well with a coarse, free-draining soil mixture: one part sphagmus peat to one part perlite, plus 1 teaspoon

of lime for a 6-inch pot.

It needs a nearly neutral growing medium, and lime reduces the peat's acidity. Using a clay pot allows the medium to dry out more quickly between waterings.

It may take a while to find the right spot in your home. A cooler room (around 55 degrees) keeps the growth compact but lengthess the time to dry; warmer rooms let the rosemary dry out

more quickly but encourage spindly growth.
Rosemary preers lots of sun. Artificial light will extend day length. Good air circulation will help to prevent powdery mildew. Marty Figley is an advanced master gardener based in Birmingham. You can leave her a message by dislaing (7341953-2047 on a touch-tone phone. Her fax number is (248)644-1314.



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