



## PUTTING YOUR GARDEN PLOT TO BED

### ***Why should I put my garden “to bed” in the winter?***

Putting your garden “to bed” allows you to clean up the space, protect the soil from the snowpack and heavy melting and prep your beds for a healthy growing season next year!

### ***What tips should I keep in mind?***

Crops such as carrots, parsnips, radishes and turnips can be left in the ground to harvest through early winter  
Putting a cover crop in helps protect your soil (see [Cover Crop Handout](#))  
Garlic planting occurs in the fall!

### ***Steps for putting your beds “to bed”!***

- Weed and clean our garden debris before the ground gets too cold and hard
  - Pull out **annuals** (especially tomatoes, peppers, eggplants and the like) compost them if they are disease-free
  - Cut back **perennials** (these are plants like parsley that stay in the same place and come back the next year). You can help them from being damaged by cutting them back to 3” above the ground +mulch them with leaves or straw
  - Gently rough up the top of the soil to expose any pests that are trying to overwinter
  - Plant your cover crop in time for it to grow before the frost
- OR**  
Add a layer of compost and leaves to protect the soil throughout the winter

### ***What else should I do to put the garden in order for the winter?***

- Collect leaves to put on your garden beds
- Empty all containers and bring them indoors to prevent cracking
- Bring any signs or outdoor artwork indoors
- Have a tool hunt in your garden before they are lost to the snow & rust!
- Remove all of the water from your hose, roll it & store it indoors for the winter
- Cover your compost pile with a tarp or straw to insulate the microorganisms for the winter

Happy Preparation! Email GVI's Community Gardens team at [info@gogvi.org](mailto:info@gogvi.org) with questions!