



LOUIE'S MENIFEE NOW



Overwintering Edition



Welcome to the Louie's Nursery Menifee newsletter! We are looking forward to temperature dips as winter approaches, and it's the perfect time to consider zone 9, and potential freezes that can damage young, newly-transplanted plants unless the proper precautions are taken. In this edition, we will discuss zone 9 overwintering!

Louie's Menifee has everything you need to overwinter your prized plants, and one of our friendly sales associates would be happy to direct you in picking out mulch or frost cloth as winter approaches! We hope this guide is helpful to all of our local gardeners! Happy planting!



OVERWINTERING NEWLY TRANSPLANTED PLANTS IN ZONE 9

Helping Your Garden Thrive Through the Cool Season

If you've just transplanted new shrubs, perennials, or young trees this fall, you're setting your garden up for success, as fall is the best time to plant in Zone 9. The cooler air and warm soil encourage root growth without the stress of summer heat. But as winter approaches, your young plants still need a little care to make it safely through their first cold season.



Here's how to help them settle in and thrive by spring:

1. Know Your Zone 9 Winter

Zone 9 winters are mild compared to most of the country, but frosts still happen, especially on clear nights in December and January. Temperatures can dip into the upper 20s, which may damage tender new growth or shallow roots that haven't fully established.

2. Mulch, Mulch, Mulch

A thick mulch layer (2-4 inches) is your plants' best friend. Spread organic mulch like shredded bark, leaves, or straw around the base of each plant, just not directly against the stem or trunk in order to prevent rot. Mulch helps:

- Insulate roots from cold snaps
- Conserve soil moisture
- Reduce weeds and erosion from winter rains

Pro tip: For young perennials, lightly pull back mulch in late winter to prevent excess moisture or rot as things warm up.



3. Water Wisely

Even in winter, new transplants need consistent moisture to establish roots. Water deeply every 7–10 days if rain is scarce, especially for trees and shrubs. Dry soil in winter can cause more damage than mild cold. Avoid watering before a hard freeze as waterlogged soil can make roots more vulnerable to frost.

4. Offer Temporary Frost Protection

For newly planted ornamentals, tropicals, or veggies that don't like cold, keep frost cloths, old sheets, or row covers handy. Cover plants before sunset when frost is predicted and remove covers once temperatures rise in the morning.

Containers are especially vulnerable, so consider moving them near a south-facing wall or cover their roots with extra mulch or burlap.

5. Avoid Fertilizing Until Spring

It's tempting to feed your plants, but late fall fertilizer pushes soft new growth that's easily damaged by cold. Focus on root development now and resume feeding in early spring when active growth begins.

6. Keep an Eye on Pests

Milder Zone 9 winters don't always knock back insects completely. Aphids, snails, and whiteflies can linger through winter. Check your plants occasionally and use gentle methods like neem oil or insecticidal soap if needed.

7. Be Patient

Even with perfect care, some plants may look a bit lackluster in winter. Don't panic, many are conserving energy for spring growth. As temperatures warm, your newly transplanted plants will reward your patience with healthy new leaves and blooms.



In Summary:

Overwintering in Zone 9 is all about protecting roots, managing moisture, and avoiding stress. A little extra attention through winter ensures your new transplants wake up strong and ready for the growing season ahead. 🌿