Winterizing Ornamental Plants

In order to understand the process of winterizing ornamental plants, you must first understand the definition of winterizing—*the process of adapting or preparing something, especially a house or an automobile, for use in cold weather.* As the cold season approaches, farmers and gardeners are always aware and take precautions when handling plants because they know the damages caused by different weather conditions. Non-gardeners and farmers may not be able to identify ornamental plants. These plants are typically grown in the flower garden or used as house plants. Winterizing ornamental plants is essential to gardeners or just individuals that have personal gardens to help beautify their home’s exterior.

Steps to winterizing outside ornamental plants:

1. Reduce fertilizer usage.
2. Cover the plants with a non-plastic material.
3. Plants should be moved to a protected area and provide artificial light to keep them alive.
4. Water plants as needed in the fall so the soil and stems will retain moisture.

Steps to winterizing ornamental plants housed outside, but are now indoors.

1. Place the plant in a location that provides appropriate lighting.
2. Clean the inside and outside of windows to provide sufficient sunlight.
3. Check for insects and diseases before bringing plants into the home.
4. Check to see if the plant needs repotting.

The definition of pruning simply is to *rejuvenate and restore old plants to vigorous growth by removing dead and unwanted branches.* Many people have their own theories towards the
proper handling techniques to proper pruning, but, if it is done correctly, it will restore a youthful, natural growth habit in certain overgrown plants. Pruning is done on plants, shrubs and trees.

Some reasons to prune plants are to maintain or reduce plant size, remove undesirable growth, remove dead, diseased, or broken branches, and stimulate flowering and fruiting. Proper pruning can be done throughout the year depending on the season and how much new growth needs to be cut away. There are numerous tools to use in pruning such as, hand shears, pole pruners, lopping shears, hedge shears, and pruning saws.

**Summary and Conclusion**

Winterizing involves many steps in caring for your plants or garden. Individuals should adhere to weather conditions to ensure proper measures in beautifying the plants and garden.

**Reference**


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