Garden tool winter storage: 10 ways to put tools, hoses and the mower away right

Ten minutes of cleaning in November saves a rusty spade and a mower that won't start in April. Here's how to put hand tools, hoses, power equipment, chemicals and seeds away so they come out ready.

- [ ] Scrape, wash and fully dry every hand tool
- [ ] Sharpen hoes, spades, shovels and pruners; disinfect pruner blades
- [ ] Wipe metal with an oily rag; oil the pruner pivots
- [ ] Sand and oil wooden handles; dry the rags outside, then into a covered metal can
- [ ] Drain hoses, sprinklers and wands; take the hose off the spigot
- [ ] Mower: stabilizer in a full tank or run it dry, per the manual; oil, blade, filter
- [ ] Bring cordless batteries indoors at about 40 percent charge
- [ ] Pesticides in original containers, locked up, between 40°F and 100°F
- [ ] Seeds in sealed jars somewhere cool, with a desiccant and the year written on
- [ ] Hang long tools off the floor; bin small supplies by job and label each bin