



I've written before that I love working at a Garden Center because I've been learning so much about the plants around me, and most importantly, how to care for my own plants better. One thing I was surprised by was plants I thought were perennials, like Dahlias, behave more like annuals here in Massachusetts. The pros here kept telling me, yes, they are perennials... somewhere. Just not here.

With that said, and a little extra work on your part, there may be a way to save those tender perennials from year to year. Below is a list of plants that are not winter-hardy, or are native to warmer climates, that need to be dug up and stored indoors during the winter to survive.

### **Tender Bulbs, Tubers, and Corms**

- Dahlias (*Dahlia* spp.)
  - Dig up tubers after the first frost; store in a cool, dry place.
  
- Cannas (*Canna* spp.)
  - Lift rhizomes after frost; store in a cool, dry area.
  
- Gladiolus (*Gladiolus* spp.)
  - Dig up corms before the first hard frost; store in a dry, frost-free place.
  
- Elephant Ears (*Colocasia* and *Alocasia* spp.)
  - Lift tubers before frost; keep in a cool, dry spot indoors.
  
- Tuberous Begonias (*Begonia tuberhybrida*)
  - Dig up tubers after foliage dies back; store in a cool, dry place.
  
- Caladium (*Caladium* spp.)
  - Lift tubers before frost; store in a warm, dry area.
  
- Crocosmia (*Crocosmia* spp.)
  - Dig up corms before frost; store in a cool, dry place.
  
- Calla Lilies (*Zantedeschia* spp.)
  - Dig up rhizomes before frost; store in a cool, dry place.
  
- Peacock Orchid (*Gladiolus murielae*, also known as *Acidanthera*)

- Dig up corms before frost; store in a cool, dry place.
- Oxalis (Oxalis spp.)
  - Lift bulbs or tubers before frost; store in a cool, dry location.

### **Tender Perennials**

- Geraniums (Pelargonium spp.)
  - Can be potted up and kept indoors as houseplants or stored dormant in a cool, dry area.
- Fuchsias (Fuchsia spp.)
  - Bring indoors as houseplants or store in a cool, frost-free area.
- Salvias (Tender species like Salvia guaranitica)
  - Bring indoors or store in a cool, dry spot.
- Mexican Sage (Salvia leucantha)
  - Not frost-hardy; dig up and store indoors.
- Sweet Potato Vine (Ipomoea batatas)
  - Can be overwintered by storing tubers in a cool, dry place.
- Lantana (Lantana camara)
  - Bring indoors or treat as an annual; not cold-hardy.
- Coleus (Plectranthus scutellarioides)
  - Bring indoors as a houseplant or take cuttings for propagation.
- Mandevilla (Mandevilla spp.)
  - Bring indoors as a houseplant; not frost-hardy.
- Brugmansia (Angel's Trumpet)
  - Bring indoors; needs a frost-free environment.
- Hibiscus (Tropical varieties, Hibiscus rosa-sinensis)
  - Bring indoors as houseplants.

### **Tender Vines and Climbers**

- Bougainvillea (Bougainvillea spp.)
  - Bring indoors or place in a frost-free greenhouse.

- Passionflower (*Passiflora* spp.)
  - Bring indoors; not hardy in Massachusetts winters.
- Black-eyed Susan Vine (*Thunbergia alata*)
  - Can be brought indoors or treated as an annual.
- Morning Glory (*Ipomoea* spp., tender varieties)
  - Not frost-hardy; often treated as an annual.

### **Succulents and Tender Tropicals**

- Banana Plants (*Musa* spp.)
  - Dig up and store in a cool, frost-free place or bring indoors as a houseplant.
- Agapanthus (*Agapanthus* spp.)
  - Tender varieties need to be brought indoors or stored in a cool, dry spot.
- Sago Palm (*Cycas revoluta*)
  - Bring indoors; not frost-tolerant.
- Jasmine (Tender varieties, e.g., *Jasminum sambac*)
  - Bring indoors or keep in a frost-free greenhouse.
- Cordyline (*Cordyline* spp.)
  - Not frost-hardy; bring indoors as a houseplant.

### **Tips for Storing Tender Perennials:**

- Digging Up: Carefully dig up the plants after the first light frost or before a hard frost. Shake off excess soil, trim off dead foliage, and allow the roots or tubers to dry before storing.
- Storage Conditions: Store in a cool (40-50°F), dark, dry, and well-ventilated space. Many plants do well in peat moss, sand, or vermiculite to prevent them from drying out completely.
- Periodic Checks: Check the stored plants periodically throughout the winter. Discard any that show signs of rot or disease.

Thanks for reading! If you would like to learn more plant-facts or advice, check us out on the web at: [www.newenglandnurseries.com](http://www.newenglandnurseries.com).