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Dormant Bulb Storage

Dig up dahlia, glads, cannas and tuberous begonias before the first hard frost. Store each in a cool, dry place which is protected from mice. Also, be sure to label carefully to avoid mistakes next spring.

Gladiolus:

After foliage is quite yellow, dig up corms and store in a dry place until the soil clinging to them is dry. Then, shake off soil, cut back foliage to 1-2" above corm, and break off the shriveled dead corm under the new one or ones. Store cool (around 45 degrees) and dry in mesh bags.

Dahlia:

After frost blackens the top, cut back to a few inches above the ground and lift clump. Store the entire clump with or without soil in barely moist peat or vermiculite at 45-50 degrees. Sprinkle a little water on the medium as needed during storage to plump up withered tuberous roots.

Tuberous Begonia:

When the leaves turn yellow and wither, lift plants out of the ground with the soil still attached. After a week or so, cut the stem to within a few inches of the tuber. Once the stem stub dries completely, shake the soil off and store in dry peat or sand at 45-55 degrees. Pot-grown plants can either be left in their soil during the winter storage or be stored like those grown in the ground. Winter dormant bulbs in cool, dry storage in packing medium (sand, vermiculite, or peat moss) at 35-55 degrees.

Caladium x hortulanum:

This can make a beautiful year round houseplant. Pots should be in dry storage at 70 degrees during dormancy or you can store bare tubers from beds or planters in dry packing material (60-75 degrees).

Canna & Calla:

Wait until the tops die back and then dig up and store in dry packing material.