

## Bringing Tender Perennials Indoors for the Winter

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Tender or half-hardy perennials are plants that will not over winter in our area, which is hardiness zone #5. Many of these plants are used as annuals others are brought inside, grown as houseplants or dug out of the ground and stored in a dormant state.

### Tender shrub and vine plants

The general way to handle this group is to:

- Bring the plant into the house before a frost.
- Cuttings should be taken before the plants become "Fallized" (hardened from the cold weather)
- Clean and cut back the plants at least 50%.
- Spray the plants to control the pests. They will harbor lots of pests that will proliferate in the warm house. This can be a special problem with some plants.
- Since the plant was cut back it can be repotted into the same pot or moved down a size.
- Grow in a bright cool window.
- It will grow slowly in October through February. In March as it becomes warmer (warming up the windows) and there is more sunlight the plants will start to put on growth. At the end of April or early May, pinching or cutting back may be needed to control the lankiness of the plant.
- Place outside as the weather warms up. In SE Wisconsin, the week before Memorial Day through Memorial Day weekend is a general starting point. They can be put outside during the day and brought in at night earlier in the month.
- The plants may need to be acclimated to the out doors.

*Refer to the handout "Tender Perennials used as Annuals " for a more complete listing of tender perennials*