



Squaw Butte Back Country Horsemen

PRESIDENT'S CORNER November 2015

Fall is my favorite time of year. The leaves are changing colors making for a beautiful tapestry on the countryside. Don't get me wrong, Spring is also a beautiful time of year, as the grasses green and the flowers all pop up their little heads to the sun. I think the reason I like Fall is in the Spring the temperatures go from wet and cold to hot in a heartbeat. No chance to adjust.

Fall, however seems to last a while, temperatures stay temperate for some time. To me there is nothing like September in the mountains. The weather cools, but not cold till after October into November. This time of year, school is back in session and the mountains seem to quiet. It's something I have missed for some time and look forward to again. A time to sit and ponder and enjoy the world around you.

The only drawback to Fall, is Winter. Somehow you know Winter's lurking out there somewhere in the shadows. Fall lets you know, it's time to get ready for the beast that follows or regret all winter into Spring Winterizing should be a four letter word. We all have our to-do lists to prepare, but somehow I have a tendency to forget something, but that's OK. Winter reminds you.

Irrigation's through, time to open drains and risers. Check at the pump, make sure all valves are open. Turn pump on a turn or two just to help drain. Same with yard. Disconnect hoses from faucets at the house and at the frost-free hydrants. Drain hoses and store. I don't have a yard sprinkler system so I don't have to blow any water out. Remember to shut air vents under foundation. Last time I left one open by a faucet. Learned to regret that one, but that's OK. Winter reminds you.

Mowed yard for the last time so drained fuel, and in the rotor tiller. Spraying also done so disconnected all hoses and stored with the sprayer. I'm on a roll now.

Autos all have anti-freeze checked along with windshield wiper fluid and oil levels. Most ant-freezes mixed with 50% water is good to 30 to 35 below. If in doubt you can get a cheap little tester at your auto store. Also check tires. October 1st you can have studded tires on the ground.

So what's next? Irrigation, sprinklers, hoses, lawnmower, autos, oh yea, horses. These also need winterizing. <http://www.thehorse.com/articles/30803/winterizing-horses>

At my place it's check water lines to troughs, horses need water more in Winter than Summer. Check water tank heaters. Water has a tendency to freeze, also set out new salt blocks. Besides the salt they help the horses to drink more. My animals can all get into the barn to escape the chilling wind, though most of the time they're out standing in the cold, their hinnies to the wind. Sometimes I think they-re worse than kids.

Hopefully this year I have things covered. If not that's OK. Winter reminds you.

Be safe and have fun
Bill Holt-President-SBBCH