

September Garden Tips

Fall is a perfect time for new plantings. Many plants are on sale providing you an opportunity to see your garden wake up next spring new and improved! Watering remains a necessity, but it will take less to keep your new plants happy.

Plant fall mums, asters, kale and ornamental cabbage. Lots of colors are available!

It's a good time to **plant spring flowering bulbs**. Planting by the end of this month gives bulbs a good amount of time to get established before the ground freezes. If you have a significant deer and critter population nearby, daffodils are the best choice as deer don't care for them.

Continue to deadhead and groom annual flowers. Some flowers will last well into October with continued care. Containers should need less water as the weather cools.

Transplant & Divide - Fall is a great time to divide and transplant perennials. After dividing, plant divisions just as you would a new plant.

Weed, weed, weed. Continue to weed. Every weed removed will be many less next year.

Move houseplants and tropicals inside! They definitely want to be indoors before the nighttime temps go below 45 degrees. It's also best to get them in before you turn the heat on in your home

Move strawberry and rhubarb plants every few years. These crops take a lot of nutrients from the soil, so they'll be looking for new ground. Getting this done now will help plants develop good roots for the winter.

Not planting? - If you aren't planting this fall, there is still an easy way to get ready for next spring's plantings. Edging and making new planting beds can be done now in anticipation of next year. If you get started, winter will do half the work for you! To avoid having to dig sod for a new garden bed next year: cut grass; cover the ground with damp newspaper and top with compost or mulch. In the spring, turn over the soil. Voila!

Remove annual plants that are spent from beds and containers, making sure to clean out all debris and add compost in beds. In this way, you can use the force of winter weather to mix in the compost have beds ready to go in the spring.

Spread compost in perennial beds. Perennials and shrubs will appreciate the nutrients for root health.

Pick up some bird netting to put over your water garden. When leaves begin to fall, you'll be grateful for this extra help.

No pruning should be done on trees and shrubs now. It's okay to remove any branch with disease or damage, but anything else should wait until late winter or early spring. As plants ready themselves for dormancy, they want to concentrate on root health, not pushing out new growth.

Clean up and dispose of fallen fruit and leaves around fruit trees. This will greatly lessen the chance of disease lingering through the winter ready to attack in spring.

Don't panic when evergreens lose some inner needles in the fall. It's normal!

Lawns: If it's growing, keep mowing.

Seeding, re-seeding and patching the lawn can all be done in the fall. Fall has always been known as the best time to seed lawns. Rake up or till soil first and make sure to water every week after planting. Covering newly seeded areas with straw will keep birds from taking seeds.

Weeds don't compete much in the fall so grass has the space to establish itself unimpeded.

If your lawn is already established, you can mow right over fallen leaves. As long as the pieces are small they'll go right back into the soil and your turf will love it.