



Through the
Garden
Gate

October Gardening Tips and Reminders

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In your garden

The Fall season is a great time to plant trees, shrubs, bulbs, perennials, grass seed and sod. Plants that are planted in the fall enjoy cooler temperatures and ideal growing conditions that allow roots ample time to grow into the surrounding soil.

Plants and trees that provide vibrant color in the month of October include: ornamental cabbage and kale; pansies; crape myrtles; October Glory maple; red sunset maple; burning bush; camellia; nandina; pyracantha; sweet gum and Virginia creeper.

There are numerous perennials that can add interest to your landscaping this month including a wide variety of ornamental grasses; anemone; chrysanthemums; and perennial asters.

Now is the time to plant spring blooming fall bulbs like iris, tulips, crocus, daffodils and many others for glorious spring color.

Add a touch of fall to your landscape by planting hardy mums now.

As in September, do not prune azaleas, rhododendrons and other spring flowering shrubs because they have already set their buds for next year's blooms. Pruning now will sacrifice next spring's flowers.

Lawns

October is a great time to lime, seed and fertilize your lawn. You can seed a new lawn in early October or reseed an established lawn to make it thicker and healthier.

If necessary, you can lime, fertilize and seed your lawn all in the same day. Otherwise, seed and fertilize the same day and then lime later in the fall.

Also, fall is a great time to aerate and/or de-thatch the lawn. If you opt to do one or both of these, they should be done prior to seeding.

If you do plan to aerate and/or de-thatch, thoroughly soak the soil a day or two before you start your project or perform your project a day or two after a good rain.

Now is also a good time to control weeds growing in the lawn, however you cannot weed kill and seed the same day. If you choose to kill weeds in the lawn first, you must wait three weeks to seed your lawn. Or, if you seed first, you will need to wait until the new seed has germinated and been mowed at least twice before applying a weed killer.

Fruit and Vegetable Gardens

Pick the largest, green tomatoes, just before a frost. You can place them in a brown paper bag with some apples and they will soon ripen, as sweet as on the vine.

Remove all old vines of beans, squash, etc. to the compost pile and then spade or till the garden.

Sow winter rye and do not mow it.

Houseplants

It is definitely the time to bring houseplants back indoors if you already haven't.

If needed, spray them first with an insect killer. Also, dust the soil with insecticide granules to prevent bringing in ants, wire-worms, sow bugs, and other insects.

Repot each plant with a healthy potting mix and fertilize through to November. Slow down the feeding schedule until mid-February.

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