

Plant Resources

October Lawn & Garden Calendar

Perennials, Ornamental Grasses, & Groundcovers	
Planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finish planting this month.
Winter Prep	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do a fall cleanup, but leave plants that have winter interest or food for birds, such as black-eyed susan, purple coneflower, liatris, and ornamental grasses.• Dig and divide peonies after the tops have been killed by frost.• You may choose to leave all perennials and do a cleanup in the spring instead.• Blow or rake tree and shrub leaves out of the perennials bed.• Shred these leaves with the lawn mower and added them into the perennial bed for added nutrients for the soil.
Watering	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keep watering is the garden needs it until the ground is frozen.

Roses	
Planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finish planting shrub roses early this month to allow plenty of time to get established before winter.
Winter Prep	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fall cleanup will help limit pest problems next spring.• Apply a thick layer of leaf mulch to the base of the roses.
Watering	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue to water as needed.
Fertilizing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do not fertilize.

Lawns	
Planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is still time to plant sod, but remember to keep it moist. • October to NOT a great time to seed your lawn – if the seed germinates, it may not have enough time to get established before winter, which would kill the newly sprouted lawn.
Winter Prep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply a broadleaf herbicide to creeping charlie and other difficult-to-control weeds in mid to late October after a hard frost.
Watering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water lawns only if they show signs of wilting.
Fertilizing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a very important time to fertilize. Apply 1-1.5 pounds of actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet. This can be obtained by applying 2-3 pounds per 1,000 square feet of an 18 percent nitrogen fertilizer.

Shrubs	
Planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to plant and transplant shrubs. • Finish planting evergreens early in the month to give them plenty of time to get established before winter.
Winter Prep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall cleanup is the best way to reduce pest and disease problems for the spring. Rake leaves to discourage animal habitat. • You can now begin dormant pruning, or you can wait until late winter (March). • Wait until spring to prune evergreens. • Do not prune any spring blooming shrubs.
Watering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water as needed and keep an eye on evergreens during a dry fall as it is important that they not dry out before winter.

Herbs & Vegetables	
Harvesting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you haven't already done so, make one fall harvest of rhubarb before the first killing frost. Cut back the foliage once it is killed by frost. • Continue to harvest ripe fruit.
Winter Prep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue cleaning up the debris left from this year's plants. • Cover any tender plant that is still producing at night when frost is forecasted.

Fruits	
Harvesting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to harvest ripe fruit. • Fall-bearing raspberries and grapes will be ripe this month.
Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prune out any diseased, broken, or damaged branches.
Watering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep watering fruits in the fall, especially if it is a dry fall. Plants still need about 1" of water per week.
Fertilizing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not fertilize.

Bulbs	
Planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin planting spring blooming bulbs: crocus, daffodil, grape hyacinth, lily, and tulip.
Spring Prep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare soil for planting spring-blooming bulbs, if you have not done so. • Finish digging and storing tender bulbs (caladium, calla, dahlia, and gladiola). • Place them in peat moss and store them in a cool, dark place for winter.
Watering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water freshly planted bulbs. If it is a dry fall, continue to water until the ground freezes.
Fertilizing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add slow release fertilizer when planting.

Annuals	
Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to cover plants on cold nights.
Winter Prep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When you are finished with gardening for the year, clean out the beds. Some annuals will re-seed themselves (cosmos, alyssum, cleome, snapdragons), so if you want those seeds to take off next spring, don't clean up those areas. • Shred up fallen leaves and work them into your annual beds. The leaves will decompose over winter and improve your soil for next spring.

Trees	
Planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is still time to plant. Finish planting evergreens, birches, oaks, lindens, magnolias, and willows by the beginning of the month. This will give their slow growing roots time to get established before winter.
Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prune as needed after the trees have gone dormant. • Continue raking leaves as they fall. Shredded leaves can be added to the garden to improve soil, and also as mulch for tender plants to help them overwinter better.
Watering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water as needed. Evergreens and new plantings need special attention in a dry fall. Do not let them dry out before winter.
Fertilizing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After the trees are dormant is a good time to fertilize. Only fertilize if you think the trees need it. If your trees had very early fall color, this may be a sign of stress. • Use actual nitrogen to fertilize; the amount will depend on the size and variety of tree.



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