



Master Gardener Tips October

Landscape Plants

Trees and Shrubs



Plant balled and burlapped trees and shrubs. Make sure you unwrap the top portion of the burlap.



Transplant trees and shrubs during October and November.



Fertilize trees and shrubs with 10-10-10 fertilizer.



Make sure that watering is continued at 1 inch a week.



Make sure your mulch is about 3 inches thick. Keep the mulch away from the trunk of the trees, shrubs and other plants



Prune fall-blooming shrubs and vines just after bloom

Perennials



Now is a great time to replace or add perennials. Just make sure you are planting the right plant in the right spot. Check for water needs (we have lots of wet areas), sun or shade needs and acidic, neutral or alkaline.



Also, you can use your own garden to create a new one by dividing perennials, such as: **perennial phlox, cannas, daylilies, violets, Shasta daisies** and **lilies**. Don't have any room left in your garden? Share or swap with a neighbor. They may just thank you.



Begin making cuttings from **azaleas, hollies,**



cotoneasters and supplementary

Pinch off dead flowers to promote more flowering.



Leave some **hollyhock** flower/seed stalks on the ground. Also some other of your biennials. It will help to continue the plant placement that you want.

Some fall flowering perennials are **Helianthus, Helenium, Heliopsis, Rudbeckia, stonecrop Sedun-Autumn Joy, chrysanthemums** and **asters.**

Annuals



October is the month to plant winter flowers: **pansies, snapdragons, decorative kale** and **cabbage.**

Bulbs



Dig up, clean off and store bulbs that are tropical in nature and will not stand the cooler weather of winter



Start thinking about spring bulbs. The larger the better.



If you can't tell which is up with a bulb, just plant them on their side. The bulb will figure it out.



Lilies of the Valley need to be divided every 3-4 years.

Lawns



Sow annual or perennial rye grass now if you like to have a green lawn all winter. Just remember green lawns mean "mowing" will be needed



Don't fertilize warm season grasses but do fertilize cool season grasses



Water warm season grasses until they turn brown. Water cool season grasses when they

start to show stress.

Roses



Cut off spent flowers (deadhead) to encourage continuous blooms.



When considering purchasing roses for the Coastal area, choose hardy ones, such as, **carpet rose, rugosas and knockouts.**

Herbs



Begin thinking about potting up some of your herbs so you can enjoy them all winter. Some of these include: **parsley, thyme, basil and tarragon.**



Chives can survive winter in the coastal area. How delicious to cut fresh **chives** and add them to your baked potato!



Herbs can be cut up and frozen in ice cube trays. When the ice cube tray is completely frozen, put the cubes in a plastic bag. Now they are ready to add to stews, soups, sauces or even used as garnishes.



Dried herbs can be used in wreaths and dried flower arrangements for the winter. They also add fragrance.

Vegetables



If you have space, plant **spinach** now. It can even tolerate a light frost.



Onion sets, collards, garlic and cabbage can be planted in October



If a frost is forecast bring in any remaining **tomatoes** and store them in a cool dark place. It even helps to wrap them in paper. Fresh tomatoes can be enjoyed right through the Christmas season.



Fried green tomatoes are terrific. Slice a partially ripe tomato in ½ inch slices. Dredge through seasoned (salt and pepper) cornmeal. In hot oil, fry until they are soft and golden brown.

Houseplants



Cut back on feeding houseplants. Particularly those that took a summer vacation outdoors. You are getting ready to bring them back in toward the end of the month, or beginning of November. When the nighttime temperature is 50°-55°, start bringing in the least cold hardy.



Remember hanging baskets when bringing houseplants indoors. They may over winter in your garage or sun porch.



Make sure you spray all houseplants before you bring them inside. A few pests outdoors is one thing, a full infestation indoors is a BIG problem.

Additional To-Do



If you don't have a compost pile, now is a good time to Begin one. We have lots of garden material available. The compost must be watered, turned and added to all year long It will be ready for you in the spring. You will be amazed at the improved plant growth.



Clean **rose** beds and others to get rid of pests and diseases. Then add a new layer of mulch for the winter. If you need to protect some plants or bulbs increase the depth of the mulch to 4-5 inches.

