

Things you could or should be doing in your garden in...

...OCTOBER

- ☛ Prepare for the forth-coming colder weather and watch temperatures in case you have to protect tender plants.
- ☛ Before adding lime to you lawn or garden, test the soil to be sure amendment is necessary; a pH test will confirm if and how much lime you need to add.
- ☛ Over-seed fescue lawns at the rate of 5-10 pounds per 1000sqft, and keep moist for two weeks to insure germination; core-aerate and add gypsum to all lawn areas to improve drainage and enhance the ability to withstand drought.
- ☛ Halloween to Thanksgiving is the best time to transplant trees and shrubs into new homes in your landscape and garden.
- ☛ Pruning should be done only to remove wayward branches, or diseased/dead/damaged wood at this time; too much pruning will stimulate growth that will not have time to harden off before the cold.
- ☛ Clean up debris from all garden areas, especially in areas where diseases or fungus were prevalent, or drought stress affected plant growth.
- ☛ Plant pansies now so they can establish an extensive root system before the cold weather sets in. This is also an excellent time to plant mums.
- ☛ After planting, be sure mums and pansies are receiving enough water; while temperatures are lower, rainfall may be scarce, so supplemental watering may be needed.
- ☛ Fertilize pansies every two weeks with a liquid fertilizer to help them establish before the cold weather moves in.
- ☛ Move frost-tender plants that have been grown outside into a shady spot before moving them inside; this will help condition them for the lower light indoors. A systemic insecticide should also be applied to begin killing any lingering insects.
- ☛ Lift and divide tubers of dahlias, caladium, and tender-foliaged plants (elephant ears, cannas); cut stalks back to several inches above the tuber, shake off soil and let dry before storing.
- ☛ Plant garlic, spinach, mustard greens, turnips, onion sets and kale in the fall garden.
- ☛ Harvest herbs like basil right up until frost, then freeze minced basil with water in ice cube trays instead of drying to have available for 'fresh' use all winter long.
- ☛ Save seeds from favorite perennials, such as cone-flower and black eyed susan, then cut back the flower stalks to just above the crown.