

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

...SEPTEMBER

- ☛ This is an ideal time to aerate your lawn, re-invigorating it for the following year.
- ☛ Apply pre-emergent herbicide (such as Dimension) now for control of cool-weather weeds in established lawns and ornamental gardens. If broadleaf weeds are a problem, spray with a post-emergent herbicide.
- ☛ Be sure to kill all weeds in areas that you wish to over-seed with fescue or rye grass.
- ☛ In areas you wish to over-seed with turf-type fescue, 5-10lb per 1000 sqft is adequate.
- ☛ Fertilize cool weather lawns (fescue) so they stay green all winter.
- ☛ Prune back tropical hibiscus, and any other plants that you want to over-winter indoors, to make them more manageable.
- ☛ Collect seeds from zinnias, cosmos, cleome and four o'clocks to save for next year's garden.
- ☛ Keep deadheading to prolong blooming on summer flowers, and to encourage fall blooms on hybrid tea roses.
- ☛ Fertilize fall-blooming perennials, like mums and salvia, with a liquid fertilizer to boost blooms.
- ☛ This is ideal timing for planting both herbaceous and tree peonies.
- ☛ Spring flowering bulbs begin to arrive in garden centers; purchase now, but wait to plant until soil temperatures are below 60F.
- ☛ Watch for web-worm nests in trees – disrupt their web and drown the caterpillars or spray with Spinosad.
- ☛ With the cooler weather around the corner, start planting your fall vegetable garden.
- ☛ As the days shorten, take stock of your garden and what plants did – and did not – perform well; make notes in your garden journal to this effect so you can better plan your garden next year.
- ☛ Consider adding a compost bin to your garden before the leaves begin to fall and pile up.