



in the
Garden

OCTOBER
EDITION

- Plant (or transplant) trees, shrubs, perennials, evergreen and deciduous plants throughout the fall and winter in our area. Move trees and shrubs throughout months of dormancy, and risk only minimal to shock plants, as opposed to in summer.
- Plant winter annuals Pansies, Ornamental Kale and Cabbage and fall Mums.
- Plug bulbs in the ground this month for spring blooming. Remember to fertilize.
- Force spring flowering bulbs to flower in the dead of winter by potting bulbs in early October and placing inside your refrigerator. In twelve weeks, take them out of the fridge into the warmth of your home.
- Water newly seeded lawns and recently planted and divided perennials, shrubs and trees, depending on rainfall.
- Plant a cover crop of clovers, cow peas, soybeans, or vetch, after you harvest your summer veggies. Plowing under next spring will allow these nitrogen producing plants to provide good organic matter and food for your garden crops next year, as well as control some weeds over winter.
- Mulch fall planted perennials to keep the soil warmer longer, allowing roots to establish.
- Mow your lawn as long as your grass is growing.
- Prevent slugs from reproducing again this year and apply slug bait this fall. Result: Fewer slugs next spring.
- Begin to acclimate plants over-wintering inside and treat them for insects with a systemic solution. The longer your plants remain outside this fall, the longer they will stress when once they are finally moved indoors.
- Bring Geraniums, Begonias, Fuchsias and other tender plants indoors or moved to a coldframe before the first frost.
- Continue to observe plants for insect damage or disease on your plants and bring any plant sample (in a plastic bag, please) into GSCO so one of our gardeners can diagnose the problem and recommend solutions.
- Improve the appearance of your garden and weed one last time this month. Eliminate one weed from the garden this fall and possibly prevent thousands of weed seeds from sprouting in the garden next spring!
- Rake your lawn and gardens clean of leaves and debris. Add fallen leaves, old plant parts and grass clippings to the compost pile, if you have one.
- Clean and oil your garden tools for winter storage. One useful method is to mix sand and oil in a large bucket, then slide your garden tools in and out of the sand. Then, applying a light coat of oil to prevent rusting before storing.
- Avoid digging up a plant you intend to keep. Mark your newly planted and divided perennials and bulbs with permanent tags, or create a map showing their locations so you'll know where and what they are when they die back at the end of the season.