

## September

- Pot up chives, parsley and other herbs and bring into the house to extend the growing season.
- Plant Lavender seeds outside in the fall. Seedlings will appear in early spring.
- Don't wait for frost warnings to move your houseplants indoors. Temperatures of 50 degrees or lower can damage many tropical plants.
- Apply herbicides to your lawn for winter annual or perennial weeds that germinate of form rosettes in turf during the fall. Check herbicide labels before using and select the appropriate chemical for the weed type and lawn type.
- Early autumn is the best time of year for sowing grass seed. For vigorous growth, spread a very thin mulch of clean straw over newly seeded areas.
- Fall is a good time to plant trees and shrubs. This is true for both evergreen and deciduous plants.
- Autumn is a good time to improve your garden soil. Add manure, compost and leaves to increase organic matter. Have your soil tested before adding lime.
- Plant lilies in the fall. American grown hybrid varieties have less trouble with virus disease than the old species type.
- Place rooted cuttings in the coldframe. Unless frost threatens, ventilate frames freely to harden young plants in preparation for overwintering.
- Now is the time to move perennial plants started from seed in midsummer to the nursery row or to their permanent spot in the garden. Mulch after the first hard frost.
- Every three to four years, separate crowded lily-of-the-valley crowns. Replant 3 inches apart.
- Plant peonies now, make sure the crowns are only buried 1 ½ to 2 inches below ground level. Deeper planting may keep the plants from blooming.
- Root cuttings of annual bedding plants such as begonias, coleus, geraniums and impatiens. These can overwinter in a bright window and provide plants for next year's garden.
- As the nights cool, caladiums will begin to lose leaves. Dig them, allow them to dry and store them in a warm, dry place.
- Freesia corms may be planted early this month for December flowering. Plant them 2 inches deep in pots, then place outdoors in a shady place. Move pots to a cool location

when night temperatures begin to dip below 45 degrees. Freesias bloom in 10-12 weeks after planting.

- Perennial phlox should be divided every third or fourth year. Early fall and early spring are the best times to plant and transplant them. Divide big clumps in thirds.
- In the coldest parts of the state, it is time to dig gladiolus corms as the leaves yellow. The tops should be cut off ½ inch above the top of the corm immediately after digging. Dry the corms (about 10-12 days), separate the large corms from the smaller ones and store them in damp peat moss at 40-45 degrees where there is good air circulation.
- To plant bulbs, loosen the soil and make a hole with a trowel or bulb planter. Don't mash the bulb into the soil or you may damage the basal plate at the bottom of the bulb which may cause it to rot.
- Outdoor ferns should be planted in early fall for best results. Add several inches of leaf mold or peat to the soil before planting.
- For early bloom in May and June next year, some annuals may be sown now including larkspur, nigella, calendula, Shirley poppies, annual scabious and coreopsis.
- Plant Madonna lilies as soon as they arrive. Do not plant deeper than 1 inch from top of the bulb to ground level.
- Sowing seeds of hardy annuals, such as sweet alyssum, pinks and sweet peas now will give the seedlings time to get established and develop good root systems before the coldest part of winter. This gives them a head start on growth and flowering next spring.
- Fall is a good time to plant and divide perennials and shrubs.
- Give your perennials and woody ornamentals a fall check-up. Look for weak or diseased plants. Eliminate plants that may infect or take energy from neighboring plants.
- Wait until deciduous trees and shrubs begin to drop their leaves before fertilizing them. This signals dormancy, when no new growth will be stimulated that may not harden off prior to cold temperatures, however, roots are active until soil temperature drops below 40 degrees, so nutrients will be taken up and used by the plants to develop a strong root system.
- To minimize the occurrence of black spot on roses, prune and remove infected areas. Be sure to destroy the clippings and do not compost.
- Allow plants to finish the summer growth cycle in a normal manner. Never encourage growth with heavy applications of fertilizer or excessive pruning at this time.
- Rake up leaves, twigs and fruit from crabapple trees and dispose of them in the trash to help control scab.

- Generally it is best for amateur arborists not to move deciduous trees before their leaves fall.
- Needle leaf or cone-bearing evergreens can be transplanted now. Move plants with ample rootball.
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