

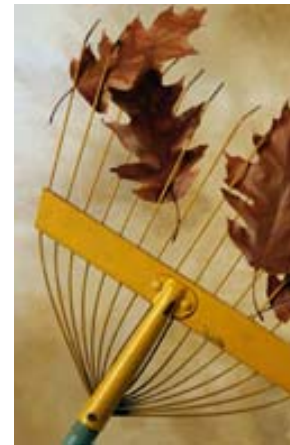


... fall is the perfect time for aerating your lawn, testing your soil and planting trees, shrubs or bulbs...

Fall Lawn and Garden Tips

Flowers and Vegetables

- Start planning your spring bulb garden now. Spring-blooming bulbs are planted in the fall to provide the chilling time required for spring blooms.
- Dig up tender bulbs like elephant's ear, caladium, gladiolus, canna and dahlia before the first frost. When the foliage has turned yellow or brown on your bulbs, dig them up and store them for the winter.
- Remember that roses require special care in the fall. In early fall, suspend fertilization. After foliage drops, spray with fungicide, then cover plants with a minimum of 8" of loose, well-drained soil, mulch or compost. Prune canes back to 36" to prevent damage from winter winds.
- Start planning your fall garden now. Annuals like chrysanthemums, impatiens, ornamental cabbage, and pansies are old favorites. Try adding a late vegetable crop of spinach or turnips to enjoy before winter sets in.
- Divide perennials. To keep plants from drying out, do the work on cool, cloudy day. Make sure each section you divide has at least one bud and some roots. Plant the divided perennials immediately. Not all perennials appreciate fall division, some prefer spring. Make sure your variety is suitable for fall division before digging.
- Stop deadheading at the end of the season if you want your flowers to create seeds. Once the flowers are dead, cut them and allow them to dry. Remove the seeds by crumbling the dried flower head into a container. Separate the seeds from the debris and put them in a labeled envelope for next spring.



Trees and Shrubs

- Prune any dead or diseased branches from trees and shrubs. Now is a good time. The areas to be pruned are easily visible while foliage is still on the living, healthy parts.
- Water trees and shrubs deeply one last time before the onset of winter. Newly planted ones especially need a good drink of water before cold weather arrives.
- Before you top a large tree, first consider thinning it instead. Severe topping can kill a tree. Unless the need is extreme, selective thinning by a professional can save the tree and solve the problem



Lawns

- Aerate your lawn (cool-season grass varieties) for healthy grass next spring. Aeration allows greater movement of water, fertilizer, and air which stimulates healthy turf.
- Do a soil test. You'll learn which (if any) amendments your soil needs. Adding amendments now will get your lawn ready for a burst of growth next spring.
- Fertilize cool-season grasses for maximum growth next spring. Cool-season grasses can also benefit from re-seeding to produce a thicker stand. If your lawn is over 50% bare, re-seed now.
- If you have a warm-season grass, fertilize one last time in the fall. For continued green through the winter, consider overseeding your lawn with ryegrass. The optimal time to overseed warm-season grasses is two weeks before the first killing frost.



Other

- Bring in your houseplants that have summered outdoors.
- Fall is a great time to add to your compost . Leaves and other lawn and garden cleanup material are perfect for composting. Turn your compost material at least once a week with a garden fork to speed its decay.
- Get your tools, especially your mower, ready for the off-season with a little simple maintenance. They'll be ready to go to work next year when spring fever strikes.
- Drain the water from garden hoses at the end of the season. Coil them and store them in a spot where they won't freeze.
- Clean up debris in the lawn and garden. Leaves, sticks, rocks and other late season leftovers can harm next year's lawn and harbor pests and diseases over the winter.