



OCTOBER Gardening Checklist:



PERENNIAL GARDEN:

- Plant bulbs so their tops are at a depth equal to three times their height. **Plant tip side up.**
- Rodents eat tulip & crocus** bulbs but avoid daffodils.
- Cut Peonies down** to ground level & destroy leaves.
- Mulch Roses when ground has frozen.**
- Hostas are going dormant.** After foliage has yellowed & browned, cut stalks to the ground.
- Prune stalks of summer perennials** to the ground.

ANNUALS & VEGGIES:

- Ornamental kale & cabbage** make colorful companions for garden mums.
- Destroy **slug egg masses** found under garden debris or plastic mulch.
- Dig up summer-flowering bulbs** such as dahlias, gladiolus & canna lilies before the ground freezes & store in a cool, dry & dark place.
- Remove all fruit dropped** from trees to avoid disease next year; also all fallen grapes & those clinging to vines.
- After frost, **rake dead annuals** from bedding garden; add to trash can, not compost pile.
- June-bearing strawberry plants** are manufacturing flower buds for fruit in June. Water periodically up to Thanksgiving to achieve optimum bud production.

TREES & SHRUBS:

- Fall browning of inner evergreen needles is normal.**
- Continue **planting trees, shrubs** & perennials. The roots will continue to grow until the soil temperature drops to approximately 40°F.
- Trees getting old? **Plant a replacement.**
- Warm, dry days & cool nights produce **good leaf color.**
- Do not prune spring flowering shrubs** at this time.
- Mow around fruit trees** to eliminate hiding places for rodents.
- Continue **watering fall-planted trees & shrubs** as needed, especially evergreens.
- Call a certified arborist** to discuss serious tree troubles.
- Plant **tissue freezes** when temperatures drop below 30°F (water freezes at 32°F).
- Formation of dormant buds** for next year's spring flowers on flowering trees & shrubs is now complete.

LAWN CARE:

- Skunks in the lawn** are searching for insects.
- Avoid using grass clippings as mulches** if they have been treated with pesticides or herbicides.
- Remove leaves from **newly seeded lawns.**
- Old stumps rot** quickly when covered with soil.
- Rake up leaves & needles** from lawn.

HOME & PATIO:

- Try growing some **herbs on a sunny kitchen windowsill.**
- Put pumpkins on the porch** for seasonal color. Remember to carve a Jack-O-Lantern!
- Waxing refers to when the **moon is increasing.** Waning refers to when the moon is decreasing.
- Keep **Christmas cactus** in cool temperatures (50-55°F at night) to set flower buds.
- Put leftover **pesticides in a safe place.** Store all pesticides in original containers with labels intact.
- Move African violets to a brighter location.**
- Clean, repair & **store garden furniture** now.
- Gather up soaker hose,** clean & store for winter.