

CHRIS' CORNER



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Fall Gardening Tips

The end of another summer is near. Fall is upon us. Where does the time go? I am looking forward to fall for several reasons including cooler temperatures, football season and county fairs. Of course, fall is also a good time to be out in the garden.

Here is a list of things that you can do out in the garden for the month:

- This is a good time to consider planting trees and shrubs.
- Apply a pre-emergent herbicide on your lawn to control those broadleaf cool-season weeds such as henbit, chickweed, and dead nettle. This is also a good time to control the grassy weed annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*).
- This is a good month to establish or renovate a fescue lawn. Fertilizing a fescue lawn at this time is also appropriate.
- If you are growing squash, pumpkins or gourds, scout for pests such as squash bugs and cucumber beetles. These pests are difficult to control and can do a lot of damage. Please give me a call (901) 752-1207 for control recommendations.
- As you are harvesting vegetables, remove and properly dispose of any diseased plants. Do not add these to the compost pile. These diseases can overwinter and present problems in the future.
- Later this month is a good time to plant ornamental cabbage, kale, pansies, and violas. Add some snapdragons and sweet alyssum for additional colors.
- This is also a good time to add a fresh layer of mulch.

- Do not forget to take notes documenting what was, and was not, successful in your summer garden.

These steps will help ensure that your fall garden will be productive. I always look forward to planting my pansies later in the month. If they are well established by the end of the month, they will look better and produce more flowers. And yes, I do manage to get those planted in between football games! Until next time, stay cool!



Christopher Cooper

