



Fall is finally here!

I know that it is hard to believe but fall is officially here. Thank goodness! It has been another hot, dry summer here in the Mid-South. Autumn is an ideal time to prepare your garden for springtime. Take advantage of the season's great weather to plan and plant for the landscape that you would like to have next year.

- Plant your trees and shrubs now. Cool fall weather give trees and shrubs a chance to develop a good root system before freezing temperatures cause plants to go dormant. This is why it is best to plant in the fall. Your local nurseries and home garden centers usually have an abundance of trees and shrubs at this time of year. Don't forget to water your trees and shrubs throughout the fall season especially if we do not get sufficient rainfall.
- Take good care of your perennials, annuals and bulbs. Weeding will help to improve the appearance of your garden throughout the winter. If you get rid of your weeds now, you will prevent them from showing up in your garden next spring. Late October and early November is the ideal time to plant spring-flowered bulbs. Visit your garden centers and nurseries to find bulbs that you would like to have in your garden.
- The time to plant your winter annuals is now. Great winter garden plants include pansies, violas, snapdragons and dianthus. They add great color to your garden. You should consider interplanting your winter annuals with bulbs of daffodils, tulips and hyacinth. This will give you a burst of color in the spring.
- Collect and save your wildflower seeds. You can sow your seeds early next spring.

- Here is something for you lawn lovers. Fall is a great time to renew tall fescue lawns that have struggled through another hot, dry summer. Fertilizing with a nitrogen fertilizer will speed growth, thicken the lawn and improve its color. Increase the cutting heights on your warm-season grasses (Bermuda grass and Zoysia) to help buffer these lawns from extreme low winter temperatures.
- Create fall home decoration displays. This is something that I am thinking about doing this year. You can use hay bales, scarecrows and corn stalks to make a great fall display in your yard. Add to that a few pumpkins, gourds, mums, pansies, ornamental kale and your landscape will be a festive fall scene for everyone to enjoy!

Garden maintenance this time of year is not only beneficial but is also an excellent opportunity to enjoy your garden. Take advantage of the nice fall weather by spending some time in your garden. I definitely will!

Until next time, happy gardening!



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