



## SEPTEMBER GARDENING

Well, we have made it through another summer. It started off mild and wet but was then quickly followed by hot and humid conditions. School has started, football season is here and the Delta Fair is back in full swing. Autumn is not too far away, and hopefully that means cooler temperatures! Let's take a look at some gardening tips for the month of September.

### Trees, Shrubs Flowers

- Fall is the time for planting tree, shrubs and bulbs. Most of that planting should take place in late October and November but it is hard to resist when the garden centers are tempting you their fall supply of plants.
- Fertilize your roses one last time this year. Prune rambler roses and remove any diseased or dead rose canes. Also pick up any diseased leaves and get rid of them.
- This is the month to dig up caladiums and dahlias and put them into storage for next year's use.
- Compost spent annuals and fallen leaves.
- The time is now to plant late-season annuals like pansies, snapdragons, dianthus, ornamental cabbage and kale for fall color.

### Lawn Care

- Core aerate lawns to promote root growth and improve seed germination and fertilizer absorption.
- Lime lawns now if a soil test indicates it.
- Seed fescue lawns now through mid-October
- Prepare your Bermuda grass or Zoysia lawns for winter by increasing the cutting height this month.
- Apply a fertilizer with potassium to increase the hardiness of your warm season grasses.
- Put down a pre-emergence herbicide to prevent seeds of annual bluegrass and other winter weeds from germinating.
- Remove fallen leaves from grasses as soon as possible.

- If your lawn is too shady for grass, now is a good time to remove lower limbs and dead wood from trees. This will increase the amount of light reaching your lawn.

### **Fruits and Veggies**

- Practice water-wise techniques for your cool-season garden if rain is lacking.
- Add organic matter such as compost, leaf mold, or manure to improve garden soil.
- Be sure to harvest onions and garlic as soon as the tops fall over and begin to dry out.
- Plant cool-season crops including leaf lettuce, spinach, cabbage, broccoli, Swiss chard, parsley and radishes.

Doing these things this month should ensure that your garden will look its best during the fall into the winter. Let's just hope that the weather cooperates! Until next time, happy gardening!



*Christopher Conner*