



October Gardening Tips

Season: Fall

Maintenance:

- Grooming & Pruning:
 - As a rule limit pruning of trees and shrubs to removing dead or diseased wood and any stray shoots. You want to avoid heavy pruning that could cause a flush of new growth which will not have time to harden off before the winter months.
 - Keep rose beds free of debris—fallen leave dead canes, old mulch and weeds
 - Time to clean up your perennial beds. Cut back foliage on peonies, deadhead late blooming plants.
- Fertilizing: Apply second application to turf
- Watering: Newly planted trees and shrubs still need water if we are not receiving soaking rains. Five – ten gallons of water per week should be adequate.

Planting:

- October is an ideal times for transplanting/planting most trees and shrubs. Check out the Book of Lists by Bonnie Appleton and Lois Chaplin for a list of trees that are better suited to spring planting.
- Fall is a great time to divide your perennials and share with family and friends.
- Consider adding evergreen shrubs to outdoor containers for visual interest all winter

Planning:

If you have ordered spring blooming bulbs, now is a great time to prep the beds. If you haven't ordered the bulbs it is not too late. Great deals can be had in late October and early November. Remember when choosing the planting location that to bloom well year after year bulbs need light. They will not perform well in later years if planted in shade.

Decorating

Check out the local farmer's market for great gourds to use for table decorations

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Most important of all have fun and enjoy the journey.

