



Children's Garden Club
 Volume # 8 , Sheet 11
 November 3rd, 2007
 Putting the Garden to Bed
 Sherwood's Forest & Garden Center
 2651 Barrett Station Rd.

Welcome to the November 3rd, 2007 meeting. We Thank David Sherwood for hosting this month's meeting.

It is time to put the Garden to bed ! David has come up with a great idea in putting the garden to bed, to save, collect all those favorite flowers or foliage and paste them into a picture for you to remember them till next spring and beyond

Some say nature saves her biggest show for fall, but I feel you need to appreciate each season Mother Nature has to give us. After the summer heat, it is good to take a deep, cold breath and hold it and release, enjoying the stillness of glittering October sunlight. With the changing colors in preparation for winter, enjoying our countryside and the awe-inspiring extravaganza and to be proud to be an American in America!!! Now this Year we have had summer seeming to hang on a little pit longer than normal.

Some may think a little differently about all those falling leaves that cover your lawn and garden as a mess. I don't think of fallen leaves as a burden, they are a valuable resource to gardeners that use them wisely.



No matter how much leaves contribute to the soil, though, they don't do the grass any good if they are left to lie where they fall. If you allow piles of whole leaves to remain on the lawn, they'll mat down under winter's relentless rain and snow and smother the grass. The solution is to either remove them entirely or simply make them small enough to break down without stifling the growth of the grass.

Fall gardening is graced with a new season with a wide range of temperature, colors and opportunities. The mum is still king with the large range of fall colors and with the Sedums, Asters and ornamental grasses. As you are removing – you do not need to miss color in the garden – the Pansies are a cool weather plant that will tolerate the temperature changes and go well below freezing and pop right back up.

But if you have not already done so to get your Pansies in, it is time to remove and clean up those summer beauties. Take note of what did well and not so well. Get those spring bulbs planted with the possible Pansies planted right on top to keep color in the landscape all mulched in and ready for winter.

Generally, most perennials need to be pruned/trimmed to about 4" to 6". The Peonies cut back all the way to the ground and I personally would not place in the compost heap/pile to avoid possible spores of botrytis, a fungal disease. I personally enjoy the Artemisia – the grey foliage which gives a certain fluorescence of winter accents. The leaving of ornamental grass foliage in place until late winter/early spring can give movement and has been very picturesque in some snow and ice landscape. Once your garden/landscape is cleared, bulbs planted, the mulch will help with temperature and ground movement from sudden freezing. It helps to minimize damage of the freeze, thaw cycle. Also helps reduce moisture loss which when the water is turned off and you leave it up to Mother Nature is sometimes long in between watering.

Mulch will also give your garden landscape a nice and tidy clean look like a frame for a picture.

Vegetable gardens/plants should be cleaned out and mulched, Asparagus, Raspberries, Blackberries, Grapes, etc. If possible, soil is moist not wet, could be turned over or tilled in the fall. This breaks down compacted soil, hot cattle manure can be added or just exposed the unwanted insect and larvae as food for the birds. Of course, remove all weeds, carefully especially ones with seed pods so they do not winter over and re-visit next year.

Roses – caution don't winterize too soon or too early. Wait until foliage has been killed by a good freeze. Trim back to about 18" to 24" mulch around base of rose up about a foot or so. Some suggest tying plants together to stabilize against heavy winds and heavy snow which can cause stem breakage and root loosening and water rot.

Depending on rainfall, (this year is a real guessing game) and Mother Nature, try to be considerate of especially newly planted trees, shrubs and perennials, along with those Pansies and bulbs. Be sure it is a slow watering to allow water to seep down deep and make the most of your water use.

Having this dry summer, now the cooler nights, and shorter days will have started the dormancy process, it is time to do a thorough watering of your plants to withstand winter's rigors. Well-timed fall watering is important!

Mulch does wonderful things: it controls weeds, reduces mower damage to trees, conserves moisture, reduces soil temperature fluctuation, prevents frost heaving of small plants and adds organic matter and nutrients. Do your deep, late-fall watering before the last application of mulch; that ensures that the moisture gets into the plants roots and stems. Let the mulch layer then keep it in the soil for you. Happy Fall Gardening!

Why is fall for planting? For one thing, the mild temperatures are perfectly suited to this kind of outdoor activity. Nut nursery experts also say that the cool weather and abundance of rain provide excellent conditions for giving plants a healthy start. Fall planting is beneficial for trees and shrubs because it gives them a head start on the spring growing season to establish strength and vigor for enduring the upcoming hot-weather stresses.

Stress reduction for plants. Fall installation gives plants a chance to establish a strong root system. Plants entering dormancy are not under pressure to produce top growth and blooms. Most perennials flower in the spring. However, if planted then, they may not have enough time to bloom. Water requirements diminish, In many parts of the country fall and winter are wet months, reducing the need for water. This doesn't mean you can forgo watering altogether, always check soil moisture. Plants, Trees, Bulbs develop root systems over the winter. Pest's populations decline this time of year, giving young transplants a fighting chance. Remember how refreshing a good night's sleep is? Fall planting is like giving your plants a rest.

Fall is for Planting Trees. Fall is the perfect time to plant a tree – for both gardener and tree! People who love the outdoors particularly enjoy spending time in the yard during the cool, sunny days of autumn. Trees benefit too, in that they have time to get established before winter comes, and the soil is better able to retain moisture during the fall than during the hot days of summer. If you'd like to add a tree to your home landscape, follow these easy steps from the American Association of Nurserymen (AAN).

Select the tree and decide where to plant. Choose a tree based on your lawn's sun, soil, moisture and temperature conditions, as well as your personal preferences regarding color, size and leaf shape. Make sure you choose a site in your yard that will accommodate the tree after it has matured. You might want a smaller or slower-growing tree if you're planting close to your house. If you're seeking to screen out an undesirable view, however, a larger or faster-growing variety may be just what you're after. For help making the decision, ask the experts at your local garden center.

As growth slows and trees and shrubs begin to ease into dormancy, moving them to new locations or purchasing them for landscape planting may be considered. It is also the time to plant the many spring-flowering bulbs for spring bloom. These bulbs are also now in a dormant condition, but will soon begin new root growth and the start toward next season's flowers. When the soil is still warm but the air above it is cool, root growth is stimulated and plants begin to get established. The cool fall air creates less stress to plant tops during the establishment period. Adequate soil moisture is still needed during this period. During dry seasons, we can be deceived into thinking the plants have enough water during cool weather.

The only problem with fall planting is that it is followed by winter, when the water must be turned off to outside faucets. If the winter is severe and windy, newly planted trees and shrubs may face a greater survival struggle. This is a lesser problem for established plants.

A common practice subjected to considerable disagreement among tree planters is whether or not to wrap trunks of transplanted trees. In milder climates, it is not extremely essential, but in our climate where temperatures often change very quickly during the late fall, winter and possibly very early spring, the added protection from a wrap will help prevent bark sunscald and frost cracks. It is probably not necessary to allow wraps to remain in place for more than the first winter unless a plant appears to be particularly weak and slow to establish during its first growing season. Insects are sometimes found under a wrap, but are often hiding there for protection rather than trying to invade the tree. Tree wraps are available from nurseries and garden centers. If you decide to use one, spiral it around the trunk, but do not tie it with wire or nylon string that may bind or girdle the tree. Although the intent may be to remove the wrap fairly soon, it is not always done. Simply twist the end through the spiral or use cotton string that will decompose fairly quickly and break as the tree expands if it is not removed in time.

All trees and shrubs normally need support when first planted. However, larger trees or evergreens that have more wind resistance will need some additional support to prevent root loosening or damage during the winter as they are blown back and forth. Stakes or guy wires can do the job. They may be kept in place during the first year and possibly the second. However, trunks thicken and strengthen in response to movement in breezes, so allowing stakes to remain in place too long can result in weaker trunks that may not support a canopy well after the support is removed.

When you are planting trees and shrubs, dig a wide hole. Width is usually more important than depth. The first new roots that develop will be in the upper portion of the soil where aeration is good. The American Forestry Association suggests digging holes at least 5 times the width of the root ball, but only about the same depth as the root ball.

While digging and planting trees and shrubs, tools will be ready for planting spring bulbs such as tulips, daffodils, hyacinth and crocus. Excellent soil drainage is very important to these bulbs and their durability is influenced by the quality of the site in which they are planted. Low spots that stay wet for extended periods are no place for these bulbs. If no suitable sites with loose, well-drained soils are available build raised beds or mounds and add liberal amounts of organic matter and topsoil to provide a suitable soil environment for the bulbs. These conditions are especially important for large bulbs such as tulips and daffodils that are planted about 6 inches deep to the base of the bulb. In sandy soils, drainage is no problem but heavy clay soils are not ideal for these bulbs without improvement.

Although it is fall, as we plant we can envision a progression of spring-flowering bulbs joined by the flowers of Cornelian cherry, dogwood, forsythia and a range of flowering perennials and would flowers that usher in another gardening season. As we plant, we can dream.

Plant bulbs and Pansies together for color and fun. Planting bulbs is a great way to bring an early burst of color into your garden. According to the American Association of Nurserymen (AAN), when you combine bulbs with other flowers such as pansies, you'll gain a wonderful opportunity to introduce new and different colors into your garden each year.

Crate your bulb and pansy garden by starting with bulbs, planting them in the fall before the first frost. The next spring, after the bulbs have dazzled and enlighten with their bright colors, bring on the pansies. Plant pansies in a partially shady area, applying mulch to keep the roots cool. Or, in warmer climates, you can even plant the pansies in the fall.

To encourage large blooms throughout the season, “deadhead,” or remove, any bedraggled flowers by pinching them off where the head of the flower meets the stem.

Fall is for.....fresh garden vegetables. Fall is a great time to plant a “salad garden,” according to the American Association of Nurserymen (AAN). Unlike the vegetables of the summer garden, home grown radishes, lettuce, onions and herbs can flourish with cooler weather, less sunlight and less garden space.

With your water be sure and blow out and winterize your irrigation system. Be sure to allow water to drain out of hoses, coil up and bring into the garage to prevent freezing and Mother Nature’s winter elements. Be sure to turn off water from within the house and open valves and drain out water from the faucet.

Clean up and place all liquid fertilizers and chemicals in a high/out of children’s reach and in a non-freezing location for the winter.

Allow your lawn mower to run out of gas – clean out the underneath side of lawn mower and spray with WD-40. If you have a snow blower/thrower – take it in to the shop and make sure it is ready for when you need it.

Give garden tools a good end of the season cleaning and spray with WD-40 to prevent deterioration and rust. Remember to give some Linseed Oil to the handle to help prevent drying or cracking through the winter months.

FALL GARDENING CHECKLIST

The American Nursery and Landscape Association (Formerly American Association of Nurserymen) suggests the following general guidelines for all yard and garden maintenance. For advice tailored to your specific growing zone, clip this list and review it with your local garden center.

- Rake leaves onto compost pile or shred and use for mulch.
- Fall is garden clean up time. Trim back spent perennials (except roses). Chop up debris and compost. Pile loose mulch-such as pine needles, straw or leaves on tender plants that require protection – roses, young seedlings, strawberries and perennials.
- Harvest cold-sensitive vegetables before frost. Dig beets, radishes and carrots when ground cracks at plant stem. Plant cool weather vegetables: kale, hardy onions, collards, cabbage, garlic and potatoes in some area. Mulch well.
- Evaluate your lawn. Some parts of the country can apply broadleaf weed killers if necessary. Fall is the time for one last mow in most areas. Set mower blade to highest setting. Fescue lawns can be reseeded now; summer grasses can be over seeded with rye in mild-winter regions. Drain gas and oil from all power equipment to prevent starting problems in spring.
- Remove broken, diseased or damaged branches from trees and shrubs.
- Plant new trees in fall. Give the new transplants an extra watering before winter sets in.
- Enjoy fall annuals – mums, asters, and pansies – in warmer regions. Cut back mums after they bloom. Deadhead pansies for prolific blooms all season long.

- Plant daffodils and other spring flowering bulbs when soil is cool.
- Direct sow wildflower seed that requires cool temperatures – larkspur and poppies, for example.
- If a live (not cut) Christmas tree is in your plans, dig its hole before the ground freezes and mulch well.
- Continue to feed the birds with seed and suet – they'll rid your trees of pest larvae, eggs and insects.
- Let the grass grow as tall as you did during the summer until the last now of the year. AT that time, lower the mower height.
- Water just one inch or less each week if you are not receiving rainfall.
- Fertilize from mid-September to November, based on recommendations for your area. You can ask the experts at your local garden center if you have any questions.
- Collect leaves within one week of heavy rains. Collect leaves completely before the first snowfall.
- Dethatch, aerate or re-seed if necessary.
- Use lime based upon the results of a soil test.

Children's Garden Club Calendar Future Events

December 1st, 2007 – Holiday Decorating – Sherwood Forest & Garden

January 5th, 2008 – Flower Arranging – Baisch & Skinner, Inc. 2721 LaSalle

February 2nd, 2008 – Terrariums – Sappington Garden Center 11530 Gravois

Feb 28- March 2 – Flower Show & C.G.G – Home & Garden Show America' Center

March 1st, 2008 – Seeds & Spouts Sherwood's Forest Nursery & Garden Center
– 2651 Barrett Station Road

April 5th, 2008 – Planning & Planting Your Garden - For the Garden – 6703 Telegraph Road