

Freedom Tree Farms Fall Planting Guide

With the passing of summer heat and drought, the days get shorter and the rainy season is only weeks away. Now is a great time to get planting; fall is an ideal time of year.

One of the benefits of fall planting is extra root growth. During the fall, a plant's leaf and flower production slows while preparing for dormancy. The plants focus then becomes root growth and production. Roots continue to grow when other parts of the plant cannot.

Another benefit to fall planting is that plants require less water. Fall plantings do not have to contend with the stress of summer heat and potential drought. Days are shorter and nights are cooler. Cooler daytime temperatures are gentle on plants as they get established, and the sun is less harsh. Additionally, pests and diseases are less prevalent in the fall. As this year's bugs die or prepare to hibernate, the humidity that promotes many diseases fades away.

> Lastly, before you plant, make sure to allow enough time for the roots to get established and acclimated before cold weather sets in. Mulching well will help conserve soil temperature. If you're not sure whether it's safe to plant, you can always check with a local nursery or extension service.