

# Gardening Calendar

## Joy Lewis

Conditions during each season in your location will determine the actual timing of your garden work. If you have questions regarding the timing of garden activities in your area, please feel free to ask a Master Gardener at [HelenaMasterGardeners@hotmail.com](mailto:HelenaMasterGardeners@hotmail.com).

## October

- Fertilize lawns and stop watering as soon as ground freezes.
- By mid-month stop all planting of perennials, including trees and shrubs.
- Plant spring bulbs including daffodils, crocus and tulips.
- Pull dead annual flowers from beds and pots.
- Cut back dead perennial stems and remove all diseased debris such as powdery mildew, but leave ornamental grasses. Bag diseased debris and discard.
- Pull out old vegetable stems and /or turn over in bed, and mulch bare soil.
- Plan new beds and dig out areas, adding compost, organic matter and raked up leaves.
- Watch for aphids on container plants that will spend the winter inside. Rinse with steady spray of water and treat with insecticidal soap thoroughly. Consider re-potting in new soil.
- After frost kill dig up gladiolus and dahlias and store in cool dark location.
- At the end of the month apply slow-release lawn fertilizer.



## November

- As soon as soil freezes, mulch strawberries.
- As a general rule do not mulch perennial beds until after the top inch or two of soil has frozen, to discourage rodents from nesting.
- Prune dead branches from trees and shrubs.
- Water evergreens well as long as soil stays unfrozen, and protect from drying winter winds with burlap or other type shield.
- Remove old large fruit from trees.
- Mulch perennials if exposed to drying winter winds or steady sun.
- If dry spell occurs and soil is dry one inch down, water perennials early in the day.
- Start gathering and cleaning tools, sharpening blades and oiling handles.
- Collect and store plant stakes and supports.



## December

- Inspect stored vegetables, fruits and bulbs for any damage.
- Start planning what vegetables to plant next spring and where. Plan on rotating crops to discourage pests and diseases.
- Take seed inventory before garden catalogs arrive. Plan and order early.
- As dry spells occur, check the soil around trees and shrubs and other perennials and again, water early in the day.
- Have nice dreams about next year's garden. Pray for perfect weather!

