



“From the Potting Shed”

Riverview Garden Club - Helpful Hints

September 2025

Fall is often considered to be the second growing season! Many flower seeds, perennials, and cool season vegetables can be planted in September. Check out these fall gardening chores to get a jump start on next spring and to extend your harvest this fall.

Things to do in the garden this month...

Planning:

- Complete orders of spring-flowering bulbs and other plants for fall planting
- Assess areas in the garden that may need new or replacement planting
- Work on your landscape plan for fall planting of trees and shrubs
- Take garden notes and photographs to plan future planting

Chores and Maintenance:

- If it is dry, practice water-wise horticultural techniques
- Dethatch and aerate lawns to promote root growth
- Mow lawns regularly to keep grass 2 ½ – 3 inches high
- Complete spot seeding and lawn restoration by September 15th
- Collect seed from perennials and annuals
- Cut flowers for drying: yarrow, strawflower, gomphrena, cockscomb, etc.
- Remove and compost spent annuals and fallen leaves
- Aerate and moisten compost pile to speed decomposition
- Check for insect pests and treat accordingly

- Remove fallen leaves and debris that can harbor insect pests and disease
- Apply deer repellent
- Take in tender aquatic plants and tropical fish from ponds
- Begin to feed birds

Planting:

- Sow seeds of coneflower, larkspur, bachelor buttons, Nigella (Love-in-the-Mist), milkweed and California poppies which benefit from cold stratification
- Plant perennials such as Astilbe, Heuchera (coral bells), Phlox and sedum to develop roots and get established before the cold weather
- Plant and transplant broad-leaved and needle-leaved evergreens through October 15th
- Propagate herbs from new growth and transplant into pots for winter use
- Continue to divide and transplant early-blooming perennials
- Divide daylilies after flowering
- Plant lilies
- Sow hardy annuals in prepared planting beds
- If weather turns cool, begin planting spring-flowering bulbs (wait until late October for tulips)
- Plant late season ornamentals, like Asters, ornamental kale and cabbage for fall color
- Sow parsley, radish, carrot, lettuce and onions

Pruning and Fertilizing:

- Prune rambling roses
- Remove diseased and dead rose canes
- Root prune wisteria that doesn't bloom
- Add organic matter, such as manure, compost and/or leaf mold to improve garden soil
- Fertilize roses one last time
- Fertilize lawns with organic fertilizer to stimulate winter root development

Indoors:

- If frost threatens, pinch back houseplants and treat for insect pests as necessary before bringing indoors
- Begin to force poinsettias for holiday display; move indoors to a sunny location and cover for 14 hours each night for a period of 6 to 10 weeks
- Take cuttings of begonias, geraniums, coleus, etc. to grow as houseplants



Happy Fall Gardening!

Sources:

“Fall Gardening Chores: September”, New York Botanical Garden, LuEster T. Mertz Library, Plant and Research Guides, 2024.

“Plant these Flower Seeds in September for Color Next Year”, Gardening Know How Newsletter, August 30, 2025.