



## Riverview Garden Club Helpful Hints



### September 2020

The weather is cooling and perfect for working outside getting chores done before the cold weather sets in.

**LAWNS**-Plant new lawns or repair insect/diseased areas with grass seed, allowing 4-6 weeks for establishment before heavy frosts. As temperatures cool, turf grass requires minimal irrigation each week. In compacted sites, aerate with hollow core aerator when turf grass is actively growing (September-October). Early in September, apply a slow release lawn fertilizer to provide a long lasting affect throughout the fall months. Monitor for damaging turf grass insects.

**PERENNIALS**-Now is the time to divide crowded, spring blooming perennials. If your peony isn't blooming, or it is too large or misplaced, consider moving it now. Cut perennials 3 to 4 inches from the ground once the flower stalks have died and turned brown. Leave seed heads on asters, sunflowers, and cosmos for birds to eat over the winter.

**COMPOSTING and MULCH**-Consider collecting all your fall leaves from your lawn to help reduce lawn problems and use as mulch for plants, or shred leaves and add to compost.

**BULBS**-You can plant hardy spring flowering bulbs such as tulip, daffodil, hyacinth bulbs, crocus corms, trout lily, snowdrop, winter aconite, starflower, and crown imperial later in the month. For crown imperial, add a little lime to the soil. Don't be too quick to cover them with mulch or it may attract animals. Wait until the ground freezes. Place chicken wire on the ground over newly planted bulbs to deter animals from digging.

**VEGETABLES**-Harvest any remaining vegetables sensitive to frost by the end of the month, including winter squash, pumpkins, and sweet potatoes. You can harvest Brussels sprouts and parsnips once they've been exposed to frost for a sweeter taste.

**TREES**-Check coniferous trees for tip damage on new growth. If the tips have been mutilated by borers or otherwise damaged, remove them and establish a new leader by forcing a new side shoot into an upright position. Young trees should be staked to prevent the roots from being pulled by fall

or winter winds. Delay pruning trees and shrubs until early next spring; however, you should remove any broken or diseased branches.

**HERBS**-You can dig up rosemary, basil, tarragon, oregano, marjoram, English thyme, parsley, and chives to grow inside as houseplants. Keep them in a cool, sunny spot, and allow the soil to dry out before watering. Snip off the leaves as needed in the kitchen, but do not strip them completely.

**GENERAL**-For gardens with water features, now is the time to cover ponds with netting to prevent water logging during leaf fall in the autumn. Paint any garden structures that need it. Repair garden fences. Clean up your lawn and gardens by removing any dead or diseased plants, leaves, and twigs. A clean garden means fewer diseases next spring. If you need to raise or lower the pH of your soil, add the required amendments, such as sulfur or lime this fall because they take some time to work. Remember to edge your garden borders if you have not already done so for a clean, neat look. If you haven't brought your houseplants in yet, do it before you have to start heating your home. This gives them a chance to adjust. Wash them thoroughly before bringing them in to rid them of any pests and eggs. Save the seeds from your self-pollinating flowers, such as marigolds, cosmos, or coneflower to plant next spring by drying them and storing them in closed containers. Enjoy the weather while you can!



--- Sandy