

Fall Gardening

TIPS

Fall is an especially important time for your gardens. It is a great time to make changes and take a few steps that will ensure your garden looks great next spring. Throughout September and October, the soil's temperature is still warm enough that transplanted and newly planted plants can still establish themselves.



LAWNS

Early October -

Apply Turkey Trot or Evolve Fall Fertilizer as an organic fall fertilizer.

Turkey Trot is a granular, organic fertilizer that will build up in your soil, improving it year by year. It can be used in gardens, flower beds and on the lawn. A little goes a long way. A 5 kg bag is equal to half a cubic yard of manure.

Mid October -

Rake and clean up all leaves and debris from lawn.

Top-dress and over seed to improve the appearance of your lawn.

End of October -

Cut the grass short to a height of 2 ½" at the end of October. A lower height will help soil dry more quickly in the spring. This will also help prevent vole damage.

GARDENS & BEDS

Early October - Dig up and discard annuals, and vegetable plants to put in your compost pile. Dig up and discard any weeds in the garbage. Rake up any fallen leaves and debris in your flower beds. Fallen leaves can hold diseases that may overwinter. If your vegetable plants had any disease or bug issues discard in the garbage and do not add to your compost pile.

Apply Clay Buster to your flower beds and gardens. Clay Buster is a combination of calcium, sulphur and humic acid that will break up heavy clay particles present in soils, allowing roots of plants to seek out rich nutrients that are usually abundant in such soils. One bag will cover 1000 sq. feet.

Get your beds ready for fall planting or spring gardening. Add organic matter such as peat moss, coco, compost, or manure. This can help improve aeration and drainage, as well as supply nutrients. This can be done in addition to Clay Buster to give the soil a good boost for next year. In total you can apply 1-2 inches of materials on top of your existing soil. Once applied it is a good idea to till or turn the soil to mix the amendments with the existing soils.

Plant shrubs, evergreens, trees, and perennials. Early fall planting gives new plants enough time to get their roots established before winter. Use a growth supplement such as “Myke” to help stimulate healthy roots and prevent transplant shock.



Mid October -

Remove summer bulbs and store in peat moss or vermiculite indoors for the winter.

Plant your tulips using bulb food and fresh garden soil. Soak the bulbs in “Plantskyd” prior to planting to prevent squirrels from digging them up!



SHRUBS, TREES & PERENNIALS

Early October - A treatment of “Myke” can be given to any shrubs or trees that have been stressed or not growing well. This is done by putting holes in the ground around the root ball of the shrub or tree. The “Myke” is poured down the holes, then watered in.

Mid October -

Perennials can be moved or split safely now. Use a growth supplement such as “Myke” to stimulate new root growth.

Spring flowering perennials can be cut back. Fall flowering perennials can be left to enjoy over the winter.

Late October -

If your plants have had problems with fungus, mold, mildew, blight, or insects Dormant Oil will prevent these from wintering over. It can be applied once the leaves have dropped if the temperature is above 5 °C. It also can be applied in early spring when the buds on the plants are swollen, but before they leaf out.

Apply “No Bite” to protect from winter animal damage. Be sure to spray as high as animals can reach after the snow has fallen. Be sure to spray right to ground level to prevent vole damage on the base of trees.

At the end of October peat moss, leaves or flax straw can be mounded around sensitive plants and perennials to protect over winter.

Water regularly till the ground is frozen. Sometimes a last water is needed in November if we have a late fall.



EVERGREEN & CEDAR CARE

Early October -

If evergreens have been stressed over the summer a treatment of “Myke” around the roots will help it repair any root damage that may have occurred.

Throughout September and October water evergreens weekly so they can build up their water stores until spring. The moisture is important to help them through our harsh winters. Water is required in November if we have a late fall.

Late October -

Any newly planted cedars can be protected with burlap and a frame made with wooden stakes. It is very important that the burlap does not touch the cedars.