

October Garden Calendar

Local Horticulture Happenings:

Get compost to add to your garden at the Riley County Transfer Station at 1881 Henton Road, 565-6290

Vegetables and Fruits

Plant garlic cloves for next summer's harvest. Fall planting gets a jump on spring conditions.

After a light frost, dig sweet potatoes and cure them for two weeks in a warm location. Then store in a cool, dry location for longer keeping.

Harvest peanuts and roast for a homegrown snack.

Pick pumpkins and winter squash. Keep in a warm area for a couple of weeks, and then store in a cool, dry location.

Till the garden at the end of the season and add organic matter such as manure or compost to improve the soil structure.

Make notes of successes and failures in the garden for next year.

Remove hulls from black walnuts to retain good color of the kernels.

Continue to harvest apples.

Pick up and discard fallen fruit to reduce disease next year.

Flowers

Plant spring flowering bulbs, such as tulips, daffodils, and crocus, for a splash of early season color.

Remove dead annuals from the garden.

Trim perennial stalks to tidy the garden for winter.

Pot bulbs for indoor forcing.

Clean up dead iris and peony foliage and destroy it to decrease the spread of disease.

After a light frost, dig canna, glads, dahlias and other tender bulbs for winter storage.

Make notes about the garden to document successes and failures.

Lawns

Continue to mow the lawn if necessary, bluegrass 2 inches, tall fescue 2½ inches.

Core aerate turf to reduce soil compaction, improve drainage, break up thatch, and help nutrients move into the soil.

Control dandelions, henbit, and chickweed with a broadleaf herbicide while weeds are young.

Sharpen mower blade for a clean cut.

Check oil level in your lawn mower.

Keep fallen leaves removed from the lawn to prevent shading and dieback on grass.

Trees and Shrubs

Plant new trees and shrubs and keep them watered during dry winter months.

Once the leaves have fallen, transplant trees and shrubs.

Trim dead, broken, or diseased branches from trees and shrubs.

Enjoy fall leaf color, which normally hits its peak about the third week of October.

Miscellaneous

Drain and store garden hoses and sprinklers for winter.

Prepare the compost pile for winter. Add new materials and turn.

Store unused seeds in a cool, dry location.

Average first frost in Manhattan, October 15

Set out bird feeders

Additional resources for the month:

Making and Using Compost at Home MF-1053

Forcing Bulbs MF-2077

*“Knowledge
for Life”*