

# SEPTEMBER

## PLANT



- This is a good time to transplant plants that are not happy in their present locations or ones that need dividing into well prepared spaces.
- To exchange plants with neighbors, friends or garden club members, dig up plants after a good rain or watering a day or two before transplanting.
- Plant evergreens, perennials and shrubs into well prepared garden beds. Work compost and slow acting fertilizer or dried manure into the soil from the hole. Backfill with water when planting. Taking this time for soil preparation will reap rewards next spring and summer, so your plants will need less watering.
- Look under low-growing mature plants like cotoneasters and gumpo azaleas to see if the branches have rooted themselves. Cut them off from the parent plant and transfer them to their newly prepared location.
- Start planting Japanese and Siberian Iris which prefer a moist humus-rich soil. The fibrous roots should be carefully spread out. A thorough soaking after planting is important.
- Plant tall fescues, fine fescues and turf type perennial grasses, which will make a tough lawn and tolerate heat. With our warm days and cool nights, this is the best time for establishing, rejuvenating, reseeding and fertilizing the lawn. Also reseed or put new plugs of grass into lawn and repair weak spots.

## PRUNE

- Root prune wisteria if it failed to bloom in the Spring.
- This last shearing of hedges for the season should allow time for new growth to reach maturity before frost.
- Remember: for the best growth, the top of the hedge should be narrower than the base.
- Avoid severe pruning of shrubs and trees now, as it may not harden in time. Prune hydrangeas after blooming.
- Do not prune spring-flowering shrubs now as you'll be removing flower buds as well.



- Resist cutting fall roses as even this pruning will reduce their cold hardiness. Prune away only weak and diseased foliage.

## FERTILIZE

- Feed roses with 5-10-10 for the last time about 6 weeks before frost is expected. Continue spraying with fungicide every 10 days. Rake and throw away debris that may harbor insects and fungal diseases.
- This is a good time to fertilize cool season lawns.



## GARDEN CHORES

- The best time to water now as weather turns cooler, is in the morning. When you water in the evening, the leaves will remain wet all night, encouraging the growth of foliage diseases. Azaleas and young dogwoods still need moisture.
- Put down chemical grub control for Japanese beetles only if this is a known problem.
- Prepare new planting beds for spring bulbs and for fall planting of perennials, shrubs and evergreens. See information under **PLANT**.
- Use garden hose, string or lime to outline pleasing bed shapes for plants or new lawn areas, to harmonize with your garden plan.
- Bring in tender house plants after washing them with a strong hose spray and then spray with Safers Insecticidal soap. Clean the outside of the pots with a 1 to 9 mixture of chlorox and water. By bringing in house plants now, they can be adjusting to the dryness of the house before the heat is turned on full time. Cool season plants such as camellias and some cactus and orchids need cool nights outdoors yet to set buds.
- Plant fall crocus and early bulbs in pots for indoor bloom.
- Plant herbs in pots for your winter use or for gifts to others before the holidays. Provide herbs with adequate humidity indoors by grouping pots in a water-filled, pebble-lined tray.

- Take cuttings of begonias, coleus, geranium, impatiens for use as winter flowering house plants.
- Put up bird feeders and begin feeding schedule

### **GARDEN HIGHLIGHTS**

- Annuals: begonias, cleome, cosmos, geranium, impatiens, marigolds, morning glories nasturtiums, nicotiana, verbena, zinnias.
- Perennials: asters or michaelmasdaisies, dahlias, daylilies, helianthus angustifolius, Japanese anemones, lirioppe, loose-strife, lycoris, "mums", ornamental grasses, purple cone flowers, sedum "Autumn Joy".
- Trees: fall blooming cherry, crape-myrtle, sourwood (oxydendron arboretum), smoke tree, dogwoods, hawthorns.