



# Home Gardener's NEWSLETTER

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Visit our website: [www.powaynursery.com](http://www.powaynursery.com)

## Tips for Fall Gardening

- 1. Brighten up your yard** with our fall blooming flowers. Use a combination of fall bloomers, and others like our newer varieties of *pansies* and *violas* that will bloom all the way through the winter and into spring.
- 2. It's fall feeding time!** Come in and we'll review your fertilizing needs and point out which fertilizers are best for your plant's needs.
- 3. Gradually reduce your watering** as the days grow shorter and temperatures cool. But watch those warm, windy fall days that dry plants.

For protection against the *West Nile Virus*, it is important to **drain any standing water** that mosquitoes may be breeding in around your yard (including saucers around pots), **change birdbath water weekly**, wear **DEET mosquito repellent** when outdoors, **be especially careful at dusk and dawn** when mosquitoes are most active, and **wear long pants and long sleeves** when practical.

## Fall Tree Check

It's a good idea to check your trees now. Plant stems and trunks increase most in circumference in late summer.

Check plant ties and either loosen or remove them. Trees should seldom be staked longer than one year, because they develop a stronger trunk if they are allowed to sway in the wind. Staking is needed only to keep the tree in place until the trunk is able to support the plant and the roots are able to anchor it.

Fall and winter rains plus high wind are the most common cause of downed trees. To reduce tree weight and soften the force of the winds, thin branches enough so that you can see through the tree. Also check for trees that are leaning and for dead wood and weakened branches.



## Fall is Perfect for Planting

As the weather starts to cool down, it becomes a perfect time to plant trees, shrubs, groundcovers, flowers, and lawns. *Here's why:*

- P**lants love the daily warm air and soil with milder night-times.
- E**stablishment period is optimized for excellent root development.
- R**ains will soon take over and water for you.
- F**all temperatures are less stressful for transplants.
- E**njoy the benefits of being outside during the milder weather!
- C**olorize your world through the lackluster winter months.
- T**ransplant now for larger plants next spring.



**Aim for a Spectacular Fall Garden!**

## Put in Fall Veggies



How do you start a fall and winter vegetable garden? Dig in! Properly preparing the soil is #1 on the list. Once it's been done, the rest is easy—and fun!

First pull out vegetables that have stopped producing, and remove weeds before they go to seed. Then prepare the soil by thoroughly digging in our *Gardner & Bloome Harvest Supreme*. The deeper you work these materials into the ground (down 10" is good), the better foundation your vegetables will have.

Vegetables you can plant as the weather cools this month include *beets, leaf lettuce, bok choy, carrots, Swiss chard, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, onions, peas, radishes, spinach, and others.*

## Create a Perennial Island

If your lawn is looking a little tired from summer weather, why not plant an island of perennial flowers right in the middle of it, or increase the size of the planting beds along the edge? We have a large selection of plants (many water-wise ones) and fall is an excellent time to plant them plus wild flower seeds. Here's some selection help:

**Height**—for the island effect, place taller plants in the center, and stair step others gradually toward the outer edge.

**Shape**—Mix flower shapes. For example, set off groups of round-shaped flowers with tall spiked ones.

**Texture**—Mix and match among many foliage choices including wispy, broad, narrow, and straplike.

**Blooming time**—Because perennials have various blooming periods, plant a variety for an ever-changing look.

**Color**—Let your imagination run wild! Plant a rainbow of colors or limit the selection to a monochromatic scheme (various shades of one color). Remember to include some plants that have colorful foliage.

**BETO is back—**

Bring the kids by and say "Hello!"

## Why Leaf Colors Change in Fall

Look out your window these coming months! Hopefully you will be able to see certain trees magically transform in color from green to bright, warm colors.

Weather is one big influence on red-leaved trees. Warm, sunny days and cool nights bring out the strongest reds. Trees and leaves exposed to full sun display the brightest colors because these leaves have a higher sugar content, which produces brighter pigment colors. Also, acid soils produce brighter reds than alkaline soils.

**Yellow**-leaved trees aren't influenced as much by weather. The yellow pigment was in the tree all along, but masked by the green chlorophyll. As the days become shorter and the weather cools, chlorophyll production stops and the yellow shows through better.

Trees with **orange** leaves have a combination of pigments in them that, when combined, show up as orange. Complex factors influence the brightness and hue of the orange color.

Beautiful fall colors provide no known benefits to the trees. That's the magic of it all—the colors are there just for our enjoyment!



## Roasted Pumpkin Seeds

*These are so much better than store-bought pumpkin seeds, you won't believe it!*

Separate seeds from the pulp. Rinse thoroughly in a colander, then let drain completely. Remove any remaining moisture by blotting with a paper towel. Spread out on a jelly roll pan or other flat baking pan and sprinkle lightly with salt. If you have time, let stand one or two days in a warm or sunny place to allow any water to evaporate, stirring occasionally.

Place in a pre-heated oven at 325° for 10-15 minutes, stirring and checking every 3-4 minutes. Sample occasionally and leave in the oven only until hulls are crispy—NO LONGER! Seal in an airtight bottle to keep them crispy. Eat shell and all—*delicious!*



## Fall Garden Refresher

Did summer take its toll on your garden? Is it time for a fall rejuvenation? You can work with most of your existing plants and basic framework and give your garden a fresh new look. Here are some suggestions:

**Change** the color scheme to provide a new look. For instance, autumn-hued chrysanthemums (yellow, orange, rust, and maroon) can take the place of pink and purple petunias.

**Remove** all spent annuals and replace them with some of the superb blooming plants we have in stock now. Many of them will bloom beautifully throughout autumn and even beyond.

**Plant** low-growing fall-flowering annuals around the bare stems of taller plants that are still blooming.

**Fill in** bare spots with vegetables and herbs. For example, lettuce and parsley perk up beds of annuals that are nearing the end of their blooming period.

**Transplant** overgrown potted plants into the ground. They will respond to the fresh soil and additional space by spreading their roots and putting on healthy new growth.



## Gardening As Art

Impressionist painters were avid gardeners who regarded their gardens as works of art as much as they did their paintings. They used their sense of color, light and texture to create their planted garden masterpieces.

*Van Gogh* adored ornamental grasses and created tapestry gardens using grasses and the foliage of perennials. *Monet's* gardens were designed to provide a riot of color throughout the year. He used white flowers to give a shimmering effect to his garden. *Cezanne* featured dramatic contrasts in foliage in his garden design. *Go out and create a masterpiece!*



## Giant Pumpkins Keep Getting B-I-G-G-E-R!



For the average gardener, our upcoming fall bounty may include pumpkins for pies and jack-o-lanterns. Some gardeners grow giant pumpkins as a competitive sport. Last year, Jim Bryson and his daughter Kelsey, set a *New World Record* with their **1,818.5 pound squash**. Bryson is now competing with other farmers to grow the first one-ton pumpkin, while Safeway is offering a special \$5,000 mega-prize for a New World Record at their 39th annual weigh-off in Half Moon Bay on October 8<sup>th</sup>.

*Other interesting facts about the winning behemoth:*

- ☞ The Brysons pollinated their winning pumpkin flower by hand.
- ☞ Their pumpkin packed on 40 pounds a day during the peak of its growing season.
- ☞ A single seed from record-shattering pumpkins can *sell for over \$1,500 each*, but Bryson said he gave a lot of his seeds to other growers in hopes of setting another world record.
- ☞ The super-sized squash was on display at the New York Botanical Garden before it was carved into a jack-o-lantern.
- ☞ Like regular field pumpkins, giant pumpkins are edible; however their pulp is coarser in texture.

If you are interested in growing your own giant pumpkin for 2013, start preparing your soil this fall by adjusting the pH to between 6.5 to 6.8 and applying three to five yards of composted manure.