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Home Gardener's NEWSLETTER

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Gardening Tips for Fall

- 1. Feed roses** with *Bayer Advanced Rose & Flower Care*, and water regularly, for a spectacular fall bloom. Also prune off spent flowers and weak growth.
- 2. Reset your lawn mower blades** lower, to 1½-2½ inches for most cool season grasses in late September. Lawns in semi-shade do better with higher mowing heights (2½ inches).
- 3. Divide perennials** if they have become crowded and are beginning to produce fewer flowers. This happens to Shasta daisies, daylilies, irises, etc.
- 4. Keep an eye on the weather** and adjust your watering habits accordingly when we have high temperatures and dry winds, or cooler temperatures.
- 5. If the new leaves** on your citrus trees are curled and silvery, you probably have the new *citrus leaf miner*. Spray with *Spinosad*, a natural insecticide safe to use on fruit trees.



Put In Winter 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 *Kellogg's Earth Rich*. The deeper you work this into the ground (down 10" is good), the better foundation your vegetables will have.

Vegetables you can plant as the weather cools in late September include leaf lettuce, bok choy, beets, carrots, Swiss chard, onions, peas, radishes and spinach.



*Aim for a
Spectacular Fall
Garden!*



Plant Lawns in Fall

This is the best time to plant a new lawn, whether from seed or sod. Switching to a newer varieties of grass will make it easier to keep your lawn healthy and beautiful. Our improved varieties and hybrids have better color, and require less mowing. They also have fewer problems with diseases and insects.

It's also an important time to fertilize lawns. Cool season fescues and bluegrasses are entering their fall growth cycle as the days become shorter and temperatures drop. Root systems expand, and the grasses thicken up by forming new shoots at the base of the plants. Use our *Best Turf Supreme* at this time of year, to keep the grasses healthy, thicker, and greener through the winter—and better able to smother out weeds.

It's Fall Planting Time!

Planting a fall garden can be just as exciting as planting in the spring, with some significant advantages.

Plants set in this time of year get established easier because the gradually cooling (but still warm) air and soil stimulate rapid growth both above and below the ground, giving them a substantial head start over plants set out next spring. When spring arrives, fall plantings have more established root systems and are larger, with more shoots and flowers.

Fall planting is also easier because winter rains will help reduce your watering chores during the critical months while the plants are getting established.

Keep Colorful Flowers Coming!

Z-Z-Z-Zoom—there went summer, racing by so quickly—but as summer winds down, it's time to rev up your garden for fall!

As the weather cools in late September we will have a fine selection of annuals and perennials to plant for flowers during the months ahead, including sweet alyssum, calendulas, chrysanthemums, cyclamen, dianthus, Iceland poppies, pansies, violas, primroses, snapdragons and stock, plus ornamental cabbage and kale with their colorful leaves.



FREE COLOR PACK

with any purchase of \$25.00 or more!

With this coupon only. Expires October 31, 2006.

A Persistent Myth



There are many gardening myths, but the most persistent one involves placing gravel or pieces of broken clay in the bottom of pots to aid drainage. Putting these types of materials in the container only reduces the space available for plant roots and impedes water drainage, which can actually *increase* the likelihood of root disease.

If you are concerned about potting soil coming out of the drainage hole, cover it with a paper coffee filter or piece of old panty hose.

TIP: If the soil in smaller pots is shrinking away from the sides of the container, it's time to rewet the entire rootball. Do this by dunking the entire pot in a five gallon-size bucket filled with water until the bubbling stops.

Bees & Alcohol

Intoxicated bees, researchers have discovered, act much the same way as humans who have had too much to drink. Drunk bees get wobbly, stick out their tongues, and spend less time crawling and flying and more time grooming. They also have impaired learning, are forgetful, and more aggressive. Really drunk bees keel over on their backs, wiggle their legs, and eventually sleep it off, or never wake up if they have consumed too much alcohol. The studies will help identify the underlying mechanisms of alcohol addiction and ways to treat it.

You may be wondering how the researchers were able to get the bees drunk. They merely squirted a few drops of alcohol on the bees' antennae and the bees slurped it up with their tongues. The good news: Bees don't drive!



Sweet & Sour Squash

- 2 yellow squash, thinly sliced
- 2 zucchini, thinly sliced
- 1 cup celery, chopped
- ½ cup red onion, chopped
- ½ cup each red and green peppers, sliced

Combine the vegetables in a large salad bowl. For the dressing (in a jar with a tight-fitting lid) mix ¾ cup sugar, ½ cup cider vinegar, ¼ cup olive oil, 2 Tbsp ranch dressing mix, salt & pepper to taste.

Designing with Ornamental Grasses

Graceful grasses add drama to a garden—but where to plant them? *Everywhere!* There's no need to change the entire style of your garden to use them—they will enhance any part of your garden.

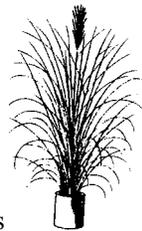
Ornamental grasses are available in a myriad of colors, including pinks, oranges, blues, dark grays, tawny golds, and green, and in sizes from four inches high to over six feet tall. Use lower-growing varieties along a border or in the front of a flower bed. Add interest in the center or back of borders or beds with medium-growing grasses. Very tall grasses can be striking when planted against a fence or wall. They can also be used to hide unsightly fences, trash cans, etc.

In a flower bed, the wispy texture of grasses perfectly sets off plants with large leaves and/or flowers. Use clumps of blue/gray grasses to accent purple and blue flowers, or to provide a striking contrast to bright red or orange flowers.

The graceful lines of grasses add motion to the garden as they sway in the lightest breeze. Plant them so you see them when they are "backlit" by the sun which makes them seem to shimmer and glow.

Grasses are excellent when grown in containers, either alone or combined with plants that trail over the edge of the container.

Ornamental grasses begin blooming in the fall, making them even more interesting as other flowers begin to fade. In winter, after they flower, cut them back to 3-6 inches above the ground. Next spring's new growth will come from the crown of the plant.



Insects in Airline Baggage Mean Trouble



Traveling is easy, especially if you're a Mediterranean fruit fly. Just hop a plane and enter the U.S. with no problem!

A recent study found that airport baggage inspectors, searching for alien insects, may not be preventing the entry of unwelcome insects. It seems that although thousands of interceptions of baggage are made each year, only a small percentage of baggage is carefully checked for insects.

The study found that the Mediterranean fruit fly, so destructive to crops here in California, is arriving in a steady stream at U.S. airports. This explains the reappearance of the pest, despite rigorous efforts to eliminate it.

The researchers are calling for improved inspection of baggage, as well as a program to determine the rates of exotic insects in airline baggage.

Did You Know?

? The most effective attractant to lure yellowjackets away from areas of human activity or for use as a bait in traps is canned chicken, according to Australian researchers.

? US Army researchers are studying the dust that collects on bodies of bees to detect biological weapons. Their tests have also found that bees can be trained to cluster around certain odors, such as those from explosives.

? According to the Smell and Taste Treatment and Research Center in Chicago, the aromas of green apples and cucumbers make people in cramped spaces feel less claustrophobic and like the space is actually larger.

? Americans consume an average of 8.4 gallons of sweetened soft drinks per person. The resources used to provide this amount of drinks include 0.8% (nearly 570,000 acres) of the total US corn crop; over 74,000,000 pounds of nitrogen fertilizer; and 385,000 pounds of Atrazine herbicide.

