



10809 Honeycutt Rd., Raleigh, NC, 27614

www.homewoodnursery.com



November Garden Planner



Plant:

~ **November is an ideal time to plant your favorite bulbs** such as daffodils, hyacinths, crocus, and tulips. Prevent voles from getting to your bulbs by incorporating generous amounts of PermaTill™ into the soil around them when you plant. Add lime and a bulb fertilizer such as Bulb

-tone™ to increase blooms. Finish by mulching lightly with pine straw or compost.

~ **Add color and spark to garden beds with cool-season color such as pansies, violas, and ornamental kale, mustard, and cabbage.** 'Firepower' nandinas give a shot of hot red to the landscape during winter, while 'Flirt' and 'Obsession' provide rich burgundy hues. Hellebores are evergreen late winter-blooming perennials that bloom for up to 3 months. **Sasanqua camellias** have beautiful flowers and are blooming now. Plant the **japonica camellias** for late winter bloom. **Cotoneaster, pyracantha, and nandina** (*N. domestica* cultivars) burst with bright berries this time of year.

~ Look for festive plants of the season in the greenhouse including **orchids, amaryllis, flowering cyclamen, ivy topiaries, Norfolk Island Pines, Holiday cactus,** and, of course, our beautiful **HOMEWOOD-GROWN POINSETTIAS!**

~ **Last chance to choose fall-color trees and shrubs before they lose their leaves.** Come by the nursery for our **FREE** handouts on great trees, shrubs, and perennials for fall color.

~ **You still have time to dig and divide crowded perennials** such as hosta, iris, daylily, & phlox. **It's also still a great time to plant hardy trees, shrubs, & perennials!**

Fertilize:

~ **Test lawn soil to determine if fertilizing is needed.** Generally, **Kentucky bluegrass** and **tall fescue**

can be fertilized now with a complete lawn fertilizer such as Espoma Lawn Food.™

~ **Fertilizing of trees and shrubs should be minimal** this time of year. If we had endless amounts of rain, or your plants look deficient, apply a slow-release, organic fertilizer such as Plant-tone™. *Do not fertilize perennials now.*



Prune:

~ **Hardy perennials can be pruned after they have completely died back**, though this practice is not necessary to the health of the plant, and it deprives certain pollinators of a place to overwinter. For the sake of pollinators, leave dead stems alone until late March. Or, cut them back and stage them somewhere where they won't be seen but insects can find them. **Leave dead foliage ON marginally hardy plants**, like 'Ms. Huff' lantana, to protect them from freezes.

Garden Maintenance:

~ **Make sure new plantings don't dry out** and that evergreen trees and shrubs are well watered before cold weather sets in.

~ **Pull any young weeds** you see before they get settled in.

~ **On disease-prone plants, cleaning up dead leaves, flowers, and fruit in garden beds helps to interrupt life cycles of overwintering insects and disease pathogens.** Remove and compost fallen fruit, leaves, and dying annuals. Avoid putting diseased plants into the compost pile. Many **native bees will overwinter in dead plant stems**, so consider leaving the old stems of plants like coneflower for them until next spring's growth resumes

~ If you have a **cool season grass** lawn such as tall fescue or Kentucky bluegrass, **this is an ideal time to aerate your lawn.**

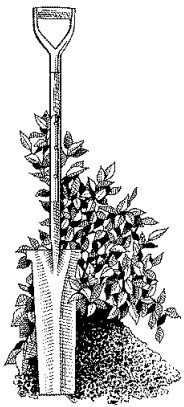
~ **Now is a great time to do a soil test** because you have time to get the results and then correct any soil imbalances before the spring planting season.

~ **Keep that rake going!** Try to keep lawns, especially newly established ones, free of **smothering layers of leaves.** The smell of burning leaves in fall is wonderful but would be put to better use by



composting them or shredding them and turning them into the soil. Not only do they add nutrition, they also improve soil texture, and provide cover for overwintering beneficial insects.

- ~ **Dig tender tubers** such as caladiums, elephant ears, and dahlias, and store in a cool, dry location. Brush off excess soil, toss diseased or dead ones, cut tops back to 6", and dust thoroughly with sulfur to prevent rot. A shallow box filled with vermiculite makes for good storage.
- ~ **Before putting away garden tools for the season, give them a little TLC** by cleaning them and wiping metal with an oily rag. Draining and storing garden hoses will help extend hose life.
- ~ **Time for fall water garden maintenance:** Clean out debris and leaves which rob fish of oxygen. Netting placed over the pond in fall helps catch debris. Remove non-hardy & annual water plants, and move hardy plants to deep areas after cutting back dead foliage. Replace 30-50% of the water with fresh water and, if you have fish, check salt levels. When water temps reach 50°F, turn off the pump to keep hibernating fish from surfacing & feeding due to water movement & to prevent build-up of ice in stream beds which can reduce water that's available to fish & risk pump burnout. Change fish food to a high carbohydrate food, and when water temps fall below 50°, stop feeding fish.



- ~ **Need to move a young tree or shrub? After their leaves fall, root-prune those that can't be moved now** (or which are large enough to need time to grow more roots before being moved) and transplant them in March or next fall. For more info: <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/plants/landscape/shrubs/hgic1055.html>

- ~ **Refresh or put down a 2-3 inch layer of mulch for great garden benefits!** Mulching protects plant roots from cold, conserves

moisture, prevents soil compaction from winter rains, and prevents weeds from coming up in spring.

- ~ **Reduce watering of houseplants** and water only when the soil feels dry. Keep leaves free of dust by wiping with a wet towel. Mist or use a humidity tray to counteract dry air from vents.
- ~ **Turn compost piles** and cover with plastic to help decomposition and keep the pile hot.
- ~ **Outdoor bonsai need to be kept outdoors.** Protect them from cold extremes by covering the pots with a layer of mulch and keeping them close to the house.

IPM (Integrated Pest Management):

- ~ **Leafrollers are hard on canna lilies.** Help prevent these pesky caterpillars from ruining next year's foliage by

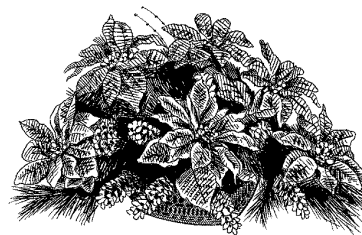
cutting down cannas and disposing of the foliage.

- ~ **Spruce spider mites tend to attack conifers** such as arborvitae, juniper, and spruce in spring and fall. Spray with horticultural oil to control if you see symptoms such as overall grayish or brownish color sometimes starting on lower, older leaves and spreading upward and outward. Tiny webs may be evident as well.
- ~ **Now is a good time to inspect shrubs and trees for bagworm egg capsules** which look like small twig-covered bags (especially on arborvitae and juniper). **Another pest to look for is the tent caterpillar's egg mass** which looks like a grey-brown belt or swelling that encircles a twig. Remove and destroy both of these and you'll save yourself pest management trouble next year.
- ~ **If you see black knots that look like charred marshmallows along the branches of your cherry or plum trees,** prune out this fungal disease by cutting 3-4" below the knot. Bury, burn, or trash the infected tissues.

Coming Events:

- ~ **Don't miss our annual Gift Shop Holiday Premiere Night Thursday, Nov. 8th, 4pm-8pm** featuring **20% OFF** everything in the Gift Shop, **hot & cold appetizers, and live music!**

- ~ Join us for **Homewood's Annual Poinsettia Open House on Saturday, Nov. 17th** We invite you to enjoy refreshments, live music, and the spectacular sight of over 30,000 Homewood-grown poinsettias. Check out the trial poinsettias and cast your vote for your favorites. *Christmas isn't complete without a poinsettia from Homewood!*



- ~ **Beautiful, live, fresh-cut Fraser Fir Christmas**

trees will be available in the nursery the **day before Thanksgiving.** Our trees are grown in the mountains of North Carolina and cut just prior to pick-up to ensure freshness.

- ~ Join us for **Small Business Saturday on Nov. 24th!** You'll be supporting a local, family-owned business but you'll also score some **great deals** and we'll have **coffee & Krispy Kremes** in the morning!

