



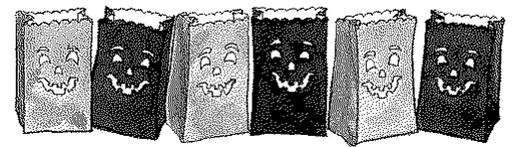
October Garden Planner



Plant:

- ~ **Plant beautiful Homewood-Grown garden mums as well as pansies** for cool-season color in flower beds and containers. Don't forget your [FREE guides on pansy and mum care!](#)
- ~ **Now's a great time to buy bulbs but NOT to plant them.** While selection is best now, it's better to plant bulbs in mid-November or later.
- ~ **Sow seeds of cold-loving annuals** for bloom early next spring. These include larkspur, poppies, cornflowers, sweet peas, and forget-me-nots.
- ~ **Another good choice for fall and spring color** in annual beds is **ornamental kale, cabbage and mustards.** They grow well in the frosty seasons and provide texture and color to your garden beds through winter.
- ~ **Cool-season herbs** such as parsley and cilantro can be started from seed in sunny beds now or planted out as transplants. Rosemary and sage are also good fall herbs.
- ~ **Fall is a great time to plant trees and shrubs.** Plants planted in fall get a chance to establish good root systems before next year's growing season. Fall is the season of greatest root growth. *Never plant so that the top of the rootball is lower than the surrounding soil. Never mound soil or mulch against the base of the trunk. Set plants slightly above the soil grade. In heavy clay, dig shallow, wide holes 3-4 times the size of the rootball and backfill with a mix of 40% pine bark soil conditioner (or Permatill), 50% native soil, and 10% compost or aged manure. Gently tamp down the soil and water in the plant with a solution of root stimulator. Then, apply a 2-3 inch layer of your mulch of*

choice keeping it away from the base of the trunk/stems or crown of the plant.



- ~ Great **trees for autumn color:** dogwood, ginkgo, Chinese pistache, Japanese maple, red maple, and pin oak. For more come by for our free handout on *Great Trees for Fall Color.*
- ~ Good **plants for fall color:** sedum, asters, goldenrod, anemone, autumn sage, coneflowers, beautyberry, ornamental grasses, fall camellias, Nippon daisies, and re-blooming type azaleas.
- ~ Last call to re-seed **cool-season lawns** or re-seed bare spots. Finish by mid-month.
- ~ Oregano, thyme, sage, rosemary, and chives are all **herbs that can be grown in a bright, south-facing windowsill** for fresh herbs this winter. Parsley and cilantro can be grown outdoors during fall and winter. Planted outdoors, oregano, thyme, and rosemary usually remain evergreen through winter.

Fertilize:

- ~ **Do not fertilize warm season lawns or perennials.** Allow them to go dormant.
- ~ **Wait to fertilize trees and shrubs until they have stopped new growth.** Plants that grew well and vigorously can wait until spring to be fertilized. Or skip the fertilizer and spread a layer of compost around the root zone of these plants.
- ~ For best blooms and color, **include Ferti-lome Pansy Food when planting pansies** and continue through the growing season.



Prune:

- ~ Prune dead, diseased, or broken limbs from trees or shrubs but **refrain from major pruning.** If cutting disease limbs, be sure to sterilize pruning blades with rubbing alcohol between cuts to prevent the spread of disease.
- ~ **Pinch off dead flowers on pansies** to encourage blooms to keep coming.
- ~ **Prune dead flowers off of perennials.** If you want to leave some treats for the birds, let coneflowers, black-eyed susans, and lantana go to seed.

Garden Maintenance:

- ~ **Try to keep lawns free of thick, smothering layers of leaves,** especially on newly established lawns.

These leaves can be put to great use in the compost bin mixed with grass clippings and vegetable scraps from the kitchen.

~ **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. When pulling up old annuals, **examine their root systems**. How they look is a good indication of your soil's condition. 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.

~ **Move potted plants in the water garden to deeper, more protected water** by month's end, and **lay down netting now** over pond areas to catch leaves. This will save you some mucking out chores later and help prevent fish from being taken by predatory birds.

~ **Move houseplants indoors** when nights stay below 55° F. Trim them back by about one-third to help them cope with lower light levels, spray them with horticultural oil or insecticidal soap to take care of any pests, and place them in the brightest location you have.



~ **Dig and divide over-crowded perennials** such as hosta, Shasta daisy, coreopsis, and daylilies and re-plant in other areas (or give to gardening friends or neighbors!)

~ **After their leaves fall, root-prune young trees and shrubs 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. Sever roots by forcing a sharp spade into the ground under the dripline* all the way around the plant. Keep well-watered until transplanting time.

*For more info: <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/plants/landscape/shrubs/hgic1055.html>

~ **Dig tender tubers** such as caladiums and store in a cool, dry location. A shallow box filled with sawdust or vermiculite makes a good storage container.

~ **Thinking of doing major planting next spring? Use markers** to show where your old perennials are planted so they won't get displaced in a spring planting frenzy.

~ **Help migrating birds** along by leaving out seeds and fresh water.

IPM (Integrated Pest Management):

IPM manages garden pests through natural and mechanical controls relying with discretion on chemicals as a second choice. When using chemicals, lower toxicity products are emphasized. Always follow label directions. The Label Is the Law!

~ **Watch cool-season veggies** such as cabbage, cauliflower, or broccoli for evidence of insect damage most often caused at this time by **cabbage looper caterpillars and cabbageworms**. Treat with Bt, beneficial bacteria that attack caterpillars (but not people) and/or use row covers to keep pests away.

~ **Adult peach tree borers are active** on peach, plum, cherry, apricot, and nectarine tree trunks now. Borers make a pin-head size hole in a tree trunk or branch and eat their way down the soft interior material sometimes even killing the entire plant. If you had problems with borers in your trees this season, treat the problem now with neem oil spray or Borer Miner Killer. Prevent attack by maintaining healthy trees, avoiding mechanical injury to trunks, and applying grub treatments such as Milky Spore.

~ **Existing fungal problems** on deciduous plants won't be much of a problem when the leaves fall off shortly. Treating fungus at this point might just be a waste of time, money, and chemicals. Instead, clean up fallen foliage around plants, replace with fresh mulch, and watch for problems in spring when new growth emerges. Cleaning up plant debris in other parts of the garden helps prevent diseases and insect eggs from overwintering there.

~ **Remove upright, succulent watersprouts and suckers** growing from the trunk and large branches of your **dogwoods** as these shoots are very susceptible to fungal invasion.

Coming Events:

~ Don't miss our **ANNUAL GIFT SHOP HOLIDAY PREMIERE NIGHT** on **Thursday, November 2nd from 4pm - 8pm** featuring **20% OFF all gift shop merchandise!** Enjoy **FREE hot and cold appetizers,**

punch, coffee & desserts, as well as live music while you shop our great selection of 2017 holiday gifts and decor. And it's on sale **BEFORE** the holidays!

