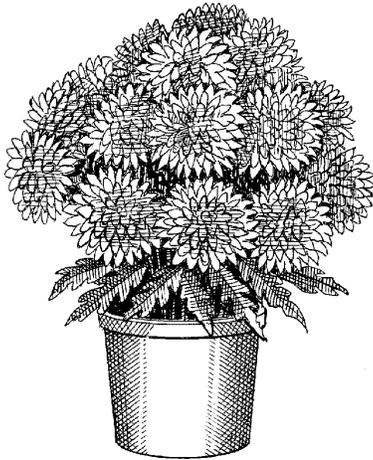




September Garden Planner



Plant:

~ Time to start planting **pansies and garden mums!** Pansies should be in by mid to late-month and can be planted in beds and containers that receive full to part sun. Give them some Ferti-lome Bedding Plant Food at planting for bounti-

ful blooms.

~ **There's more to fall color than just pansies and mums,** though. **Good trees for fall color** include ginkgo, red maple, pin oak, and Chinese pistache. Try **shrubs** such as oakleaf hydrangea, nandina, beautyberry, pyracantha, fothergilla, and Encore™ or Bloom-a-Thon™ azaleas. **Late season perennials** such as sedum, asters, asteromea, helianthus, and Japanese anemone will add spark and interest to your perennial beds. For more autumn plants, stop by the nursery for our **free handouts** on [Plants for the Autumn Garden](#) and [Great Trees for Fall Color](#).

~ By the end of the month look for **ornamental cabbage,**

kale, and mustard in the nursery. Their bright decorative foliage is great in winter annual beds!

~ And, if that's not enough, **check out our Fall Color plants featuring annuals, perennials, and miniature shrubs for au-**



tumn color and foliage. These are great both in mixed containers and garden beds.

~ The beginning of the month is your **last chance to plant**

transplants of head-forming cool-season veggies such as broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, & brussels sprouts.

~ **It's still a good time to start leafy greens,** such as kale, Swiss chard, spinach & lettuce. Seeds of radish, mustard, turnip, beet, spinach, and lettuce can be sown directly into garden beds.



Fertilize:

In general, it's time to wind down applications of fertilizer. You don't want to stimulate tender new growth that can get nipped when the first frosts come.

~ **Fertilize cool-season grasses** such as Kentucky bluegrass and fescue to get them ready for the season ahead. Choose a good slow-release food such as Espoma Lawn Food.



Garden Maintenance

~ **Mid September through mid October is prime time to seed new lawns or overseed** languishing old lawns with **cool-season grasses** such as Top Choice fescue or Kentucky bluegrass. **Overseed warm-season grasses like zoysia** with annual ryegrass for a green lawn through winter. Prep areas to be overseeded by **de-thatching and aerating** beforehand. Spread seed, roll with a roller to press them into the soil, and mulch lightly. Be sure to keep newly seeded areas **well watered until the grass is up and established.**

September *can* be a relatively dry month, hurricanes notwithstanding, so **keep an eye out for anything that might need supplemental watering, especially any new plantings.** For established plants, it's best to water deeply once a week during dry spells rather than lightly every day.

Prepare to move tropical houseplants indoors.

Move them to shaded locations, treat for any insects they may have "acquired" with insecticidal soap, and trim back dead or diseased foliage before bringing them in. Repot only those plants that have become

potbound. It's a good idea to get them indoors before nights become noticeably cool (below 55 degrees).

~ **Start drying herbs for winter use.** Or try this method: Chop up clean, de-stemmed herbs, mix with olive oil, (or process everything in a food processor) and pour into ice cube trays. Once frozen, bag them up and put them back in the freezer till you need them. Alternatively, place stems of washed herbs into ziploc bags and directly into the freezer. If you're using them fairly soon, you can just pour minced or chopped herbs into a jar, cover with oil, and store in the fridge.

~ **Now's a good time to divide and re-plant overgrown or tired out perennials.** Perennials that respond well to division include coneflower, coreopsis, daylily, iris, phlox, hosta, lamb's ear, and shasta daisy.

~ **Pull out summer weeds that are setting seed now** and while you're at it, snag those **winter annual weeds** that are starting to germinate. Or use a pre-emergent such as Espoma Weed Preventer™.

Weed Beater FE is an effective non-toxic spray for weeds.



Prune:

~ **Hold off on pruning shrubs and trees** since it will only stimulate new growth that can get damaged by fall frosts. Exceptions to this include pruning any dead, diseased, or broken limbs.

~ **Around mid-month, pinch flowers off of peppers and eggplants.** This will encourage the remaining young fruits to ripen.

~ **Coax another bloom out of your crepe myrtles** by removing the old flowers just below the old bloom or seed pod. Don't shear back or you'll cut off buds, too.

IPM (Integrated Pest Management):

It can be a busy month for bugs. Keep an eye out and treat problems accordingly. Here's a mini-guide to pest control:

~ **Treat soft-bodied sucking insects** such as spider mites, aphids, mealybugs, whiteflies, and scale with All Season Spray Oil™ or insecticidal soap. Spray thoroughly including undersides in the late afternoon or early evening. Do not spray when temps are 85°F or more.

~ **Fall webworms are usually active now** (though can be seen earlier) and can be identified by tree limbs whose extremities appear to be encased in webbing. Treat by cutting away affected limbs and disposing of them in closed containers or burning them. If necessary, spray with Thuricide™ or spinosad.

~ **As weather gets cooler snails and slugs may become more active** in the garden. If this is a problem, put out Espoma Slug & Snail Control™, a non-toxic granular snail and slug bait that is safe for use around pets and

edible plants. Beer traps in beds & copper tape around pots also work.

~ **When deciding on treatment for mild to moderate fungal diseases,** consider that we're heading towards the end of the growing season and that **it may not be worth it to treat certain deciduous plants** (i.e. hydrangeas) now since they'll be losing their leaves shortly. Once dormant, remove and dispose of dead and fallen leaves to prevent pest from overwintering. **Controls:** Fung-onil, copper soap spray, or make your own fungicide by mixing 2-3 tsp. of baking soda with 2-3 Tbsp. of All Season Spray Oil™ oil spray in 1 gallon of water. Apply every 5 to 7 days as long as signs of infection persist.

~ **Watch for root rot and crown rot** which can occur during times of high humidity and high evening temps. Watch for dying off of individual branches or a "melted" look. Improve drainage in these areas, and make sure irrigation isn't overdoing it or mulch isn't sitting against trunks/stems. Better to water trees and shrubs once a week deeply than light, frequent watering.

Coming Events:

~ Don't miss **Homewood's Annual FALL PLANT SALE** through SEPT. 14th! **ALL OUTDOOR PLANTS** including trees, shrubs, vines, ground-covers, and perennials are **25% OFF!** Sale excludes mums, pansies & veggies.

~ **Come out to Homewood for CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY on Saturday, October 12th**

and enjoy fun activities for the whole family such as **tractor-drawn hay rides**, as well as **free popcorn and drinks**.

Look for our **unadvertised specials** throughout the store and enter a raffle to **win Homewood Gift Cards!** We'll also have **free pansy**

packs for kids and a pumpkin decorating station!

This is our chance to thank our great customers for their patronage at Homewood!

~ Step out for a **fun evening of shopping** during our **HOLIDAY PREMIERE NIGHT** when we debut our 2018 Holiday gifts and decor! Enjoy **free hot appetizers, live music, and refreshments** and get **20% OFF all gifts & decor** in our Gift & Home/Holiday Shop dept!

**25%
OFF!**

