



Guilford Gardening Journal

Timely Tips for Your Central North Carolina Garden

October

Ornamentals & Houseplants

- Plant pansies for cool weather color.
- Continue dividing perennials.
- Dig & store tender bulbs like dahlias & caladiums. Let them dry out and store layered in newspaper in a cool dark place.
- Bring in any remaining houseplants or tender perennials. Inspect carefully for insects. Quarantine for treatment as needed.

Edibles

- Garlic planting can begin this month. Bulb onions can be planted from seed now too.
- Dig and harvest sweet potatoes before first frost.
- Harvest remaining tomatoes. Ripen inside or cook some fried green tomatoes.
- Harvest and hang up hot peppers to dry.
- Remove remaining summer vegetable plants and debris. Don't compost any diseased plant material.
- If you don't have cool weather crops planted, now is a great time to amend your vegetable garden according to your soil test. Add compost. Top with mulch or a cover crop.

Lawns

- Mow newly seeded areas when they reach 4-5". Mow to no less than 3".
- Keep fallen leaves cleared away from lawn.

Trees & Shrubs

- Continue planting trees & shrubs.
- Don't prune trees & shrubs – it could trigger new growth with will be susceptible to cold damage. But you can always trim dead, diseased, damaged and dangerous branches.

Miscellaneous

- Consider leaving flower stalks and stems in place for winter interest and to provide habitat for native bees.
- Cover any water features with light mesh netting to keep out falling leaves.
- If you haven't done a soil test yet, there is still time! Tests are free through the end of November.

For further information on these topics or any other gardening questions, please call our InfoLine at 336-641-2404 to speak with a Master Gardener volunteer or send an email to guilfordmg@gmail.com

Taylor Jones, Extension Agent
Agriculture – Consumer & Home Horticulture
Guilford County Cooperative Extension
336-641-2400



NC State University and N.C. A&T State University commit themselves to positive action to secure equal opportunity and prohibit discrimination and harassment regardless of age, color, disability, family and marital status, genetic information, national origin, political beliefs, race, religion, sex (including pregnancy), gender identity, sexual orientation and veteran status. NC State, N.C. A&T, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments cooperating. Accommodation requests related to a disability should be made by 5 business days before the event to Lauren Taubert at 336-641-2400.