



Guilford Gardening Journal

Timely Tips for Your Central North Carolina Garden

September

Ornamentals & Houseplants

- Now is a great time to plant perennials. They will have time to develop strong root systems before winter and be ready to grow in the spring.
- Plant containers of mums, ornamental kale, snapdragons and other cool season annuals.
- Divide Irises & Daylilies and other perennials like beebalm, rudbeckia, ...
- Consider leaving rudbeckia flowers alone after they finish blooming – the goldfinches like to eat them.
- Keep an eye on houseplants that have been vacationing outdoors – if we get cool nights in the fifties, they may need to come inside. Check for insects carefully.

Edibles

- Clean up summer vegetable plants as they finish producing. Don't compost anything with signs of disease.
- Continue setting out cool season fall veggies like cabbage, broccoli, collards, lettuce, peas. You can use this handy vegetable calendar to know when to plant what:
https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/show_ep3_pdf/1598393273/23265/

Lawns

- Fertilize your cool-season grass according to soil test results. Nitrogen should be applied at 1 pound N per 1000 square feet.
- Adjust the pH with lime if the soil test indicates.
- Core aerate your lawn. This can be done at the same time as fertilizing.
- Overseed fescue lawns or renovate weed infested areas. Water well & regularly during establishment phase. A great publication on cool season lawn care is "Carolina Lawns" at <https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/carolina-lawns>.

Trees & Shrubs

- Fall is the best time to plant trees & shrubs. They have time to establish good root systems before winter without being stressed by too much heat.
- Clean up early falling leaves. Shred with mulching mower or compost.

Miscellaneous

- Water any newly established plants if we don't get adequate rain.
- Fall webworms create webs at the end of branches. They only eat what is inside the web and generally won't harm the tree. You can poke a hole in the web if they are unsightly and let the birds have a fall feast.

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

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