


Fall Gardening Guide

By Benita Moore, Certified Master Gardener

	<h2>October</h2>	<h2>November</h2>	<h2>December</h2>
<h3>Planting</h3>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Now's the time to plant trees, shrubs, perennials, ground covers, cool-season lawns, winter annuals, winter vegetables and native plants. • Popular winter annuals that provide a long season of color are snapdragons, pansies, delphinium, calendula, stock and Iceland poppies. • Plant carrots, beets, lettuce, spinach, snow peas, onion and turnips from seeds. Look for 6-packs of cauliflower and broccoli. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant cool-weather vegetable seedlings at two-week intervals until the rains start. Biennial and perennial herbs: Chives, Greek oregano, marjoram, parsley, rosemary, sage and lemon or common thyme. • Get all your spring flowering bulbs planted before Thanksgiving. • If you plan to do any bare root planting this winter, prepare the soil now before it becomes waterlogged with winter rains. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cole crops, such as broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, and kale grow well during the winter and can be harvested as long as they are producing. When harvesting leave a portion of the stem because a smaller head will form just below the point where the first one was cut off. • Don't forget to fertilize plants that grow during the winter months. This includes all the cool season annuals and vegetables.
<h3>Maintenance</h3>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fertilize roses for the last time this fall. • Control slugs and snails with bait containing iron phosphate, which is safer on edible crops, around children, pets, and wildlife. • Dethatch, aerate, and fertilize turf grass. Lower the blades of your mower to 1 inch after summer's heat. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once rain begins, adjust watering schedule. If it's still dry, keep vegetables irrigated. • Apply dormant spray to fruit trees after leaves drop. Use 50% copper or lime sulfur product for peach leaf curl on peaches and nectarines. On apricots use fixed copper spray rather than lime sulfur. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After the frost cut back asparagus to the ground, also any perennials with blackened leaves or stems. • Keep poinsettias in a warm, sunny location, away from drafts. Water weekly, and fertilize monthly through April. • Before storing tools for winter, clean, sharpen and oil pruners. Wash mud off shovels and rakes.
<h3>Prevention</h3>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If rain has begun, check for areas of standing water, the breeding ground of mosquitoes. • Keep tidying to reduce the debris that harbors insects and diseases over winter. • Apply copper or other recommended controls if you see brown rot or citrus blast on your citrus trees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bait for snails and slugs with an iron phosphate-based bait. • Fight cabbage loopers by using floating row covers or treating leaves of vegetable seedlings with <i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i> (Bt). • Use pre-emergent weed control among plantings and in your lawn. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hoe and pull weeds as soon as you spot them. Mulch to keep weeds down. • Apply a dormant spray to kill insect eggs and pests such as aphids, mites and scale, as well as fungi and bacteria. • If a freeze warning is in effect, turn off drip irrigation and remove the end plug for drainage.