



OCTOBER



GARDENING

TO DO LIST

VEGETABLES & HERBS

- ☐ plant lettuce, spinach & radishes through Oct. 15 & protect with row covers or a cold frame
- ☐ overwinter carrots, turnips & parsnips: cover with straw/leaf mulch; harvest as necessary
- ☐ harvest potatoes, pumpkins & winter squash
- ☐ harvest gourds after a hard frost
- ☐ sow cover crops of oats, winter rye & wheat through Oct. 15 to conserve soil nutrients & add organic matter when tilled in spring
- ☐ bring herbs indoors & place in a sunny window or under cool white fluorescent lights
- ☐ create new beds: cut grass low, cover with newspaper, then layers of organic matter, followed by a thick layer of straw or mulch

SHRUBS & TREES

- ☐ plant deciduous trees & shrubs (wait until spring for evergreens)
- ☐ keep shrubs & trees well watered through first frost to ensure they go into winter hydrated
- ☐ feed with a slow-release fertilizer (like Holly-tone) to boost root growth
- ☐ use burlap to protect plants that are susceptible to breakage from snow

ANNUALS & PERENNIALS

- ☐ plant pansies & ornamental cabbage & kale for cool temperature color
- ☐ divide/move/plant new perennials, using a root stimulator (like Espoma Bio-tone); mulch & water well
- ☐ keep watering perennials until 2nd heavy frost
- ☐ trim dead or diseased stems
- ☐ remove leaves from around plants (except around Joe Pye Weed which might contain overwintering butterflies)

LAWN

- ☐ overseed, patch or start a new lawn through Oct. 15
- ☐ fertilize once this month

HOUSEPLANTS

- ☐ continue bringing houseplants indoors, repotting as necessary
- ☐ treat with horticultural & neem oils to control aphids, mites, mealy bugs, scale & whiteflies; check periodically for pests
- ☐ watch gardenias for spider mites
- ☐ reduce fertilizer for tropicals to twice a month & half the dose

WILDLIFE

- ☐ provide food (including suet) & water for birds
- ☐ leave hummingbird feeders out for stragglers & new birds
- ☐ clean: bird baths, feeders & nest boxes; hummingbird feeders once a week
- ☐ pile leaves & trimmings in a corner of the yard for winter protection for ground-dwelling birds & hibernating reptiles

BULBS

- ☐ plant spring-blooming bulbs; add bone meal or bulb fertilizer (like Bulb-tone) for best results
- ☐ dig & store tender bulbs before ground freezes: after frost blackens foliage, cut back to 6" & dig up, wash off soil, let dry for 2 weeks, then store in boxes filled with peat moss/bark chips in a cool, dry place
- ☐ move fall-blooming crocus after flowering
- ☐ pot paperwhite bulbs starting now (plant every 2-3 weeks for continuous flowers)