

# Fall Gardening Checklist

By Jake R Brady

- September
  - Water plants less as temperatures start to dwindle.
  - Pick herbs to freeze and/or dry.
  - Cover water features with netting to collect falling leaves.
  - Bring summer houseplants back indoors for the cooler months.
  - Plant trees and shrubs.
  - Keep planted trees and shrubs well-watered after planting.
  - Plan your spring bulb garden.
  - Prepare soil beds and plant Spring-flowering bulbs.
  - Clean bird feeders.
  - Put tools, hoses, and portable sprinkler systems in storage.
  - One last weeding will help to improve the appearance of your garden.
  - Fertilize your lawn.
  - Reap the harvest of the vegetables and herbs still in your garden - preserve, puree, can or freeze.
- October
  - Transplant shrubs or young trees to new locations.
  - Cut back flowers that have stopped blooming and/or stop deadheading seed heads early Fall.
  - Prune any diseased or stressed tree/shrub limbs.
  - Rake and compost any fallen leaves, fruit and dried brush.
  - Remove dead annuals from the garden.
  - Continue watering trees and shrubs until the ground freezes.
  - Dispose of any diseased or infested plant debris to avoid re-entry of the problem in the Spring.
  - Take cuttings, if desired, to winter indoors.
  - Outside, spray all plants gently with water to dislodge any unwanted pests.
- November
  - Divide perennials and transplant newly divided bulbs.
  - Mulch rose bushes.

- Clean fallen leaves in downspouts and gutters.
- Burlap wrap any plants that would benefit before heavy frosts begin.
- Assess which plants and shrubs have done well in your gardens and which have not.
- Watch for frost warnings; protect/cover plants and vegetables as needed.