

October Garden Calendar

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Vegetables and Fruits – Plant garlic cloves for next summer's harvest. Fall planting gets a jump on spring conditions. After a light frost, dig sweet potatoes and cure them for two weeks in a warm location. Then store in a cool, dry location for longer keeping. Harvest peanuts and roast for a homegrown snack. Pick pumpkins and winter squash. Keep in a warm area for a couple of weeks, and then store in a cool, dry location. Till the garden at the end of the season and add organic matter such as manure or compost to improve soil structure. Make notes of successes and failures in the garden for next year. Remove hulls from black walnuts to retain good color of the kernels. Continue to harvest apples. Pick up and discard fallen fruit to reduce disease next year.

Flowers – Plant spring flowering bulbs, such as tulips, daffodils and crocus, for a splash of early season color. Remove dead annuals from the garden. Trim perennial stalks to tidy the garden for winter. Pot bulbs for indoor forcing. Clean up dead iris and peony foliage and destroy it to decrease the spread of disease. After a light frost, dig canna, gladiolas, dahlias and other tender bulbs for winter storage. Make notes about the garden to document successes and failures.

Lawns – Continue to mow the lawn, if necessary, bluegrass – 2 inches and tall fescue 2.5 inches. Core aerate turf to reduce soil compaction, improve drainage, break up thatch and help nutrients move into the soil. Control dandelions, henbit and chickweed with a broadleaf herbicide while seedlings are young. Sharpen mower blade for a clean cut. Check the oil level in your lawn mower. Keep fallen leaves removed from the lawn to prevent shading and dieback on grass.

Trees and Shrubs – Plant new trees and shrubs and keep them watered during dry winter months. Once the leaves have fallen, transplant trees and shrubs. Trim dead, broken, or diseased branches from trees and shrubs. Enjoy fall color, which normally hits peak about the third week of October.

Miscellaneous – Drain and store garden hoses and sprinklers for winter. Prepare the compost pile for winter. Add new materials and turn. Store unused seeds in a cool, dry location.

For more information, please contact the local K-State Research and Extension Office.

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