

Garden Calendar

(provided by Cornell Cooperative Extension, Putnam County)

September:

- Fall is a Great time for planting and dividing perennials. Be sure to water them in well. Fall-planted perennials are sometimes heaved out of the soil by frosts, so mulch them well and check them in the winter to make sure they've stayed tucked-in. Peonies are best divided and planted in the fall.
- Renovate lawns and fertilize lawns. New lawns thrive when planted in the fall. Cool temperatures and frequent rains make for excellent root growth. That means that cool-season grasses, like Kentucky blue, fescue, and rye get a head start on weeds. Come Spring they are better able to out-compete spring germinating weeds such as crabgrass.
- Purchase spring-flowering bulbs. If you have deer browsing, choose alliums and narcissus (daffodils) as these have proven to be the most deer-resistant. Fritallarias are another pest resistant bulb to plant.
- Take cuttings from tender plants. Remember that some plants are protected by plant patents and you may not take cutting from them. You may take in the entire plant for continued use indoors.
- Harvest herbs for drying and/or freezing. Pot up herbs for a window sill garden.
- Bring in houseplants that have summered outdoors. Check them thoroughly for hitchhikers! Aphids and mealy bugs found in small numbers outdoors can quickly expand into damaging populations indoors in the absence of natural predators. Insecticides like horticultural oil, neem oil, and insecticidal soap may be safely used indoors, however read labels carefully as some oils may stain fabrics and carpets, and some tender plants may have adverse reactions to certain formulations.
- Cut Iris foliage to help stop Iris borer.
- Consider planting a fall cover crop in your vegetable garden. The top growth adds organic matter when it is tilled into the garden soil. Good choices are winter rye, oats, and winter wheat.
- Collect seeds of non-hybrid plants for next year. For most, dry before storing.