

WEEKLY NEWS COLUMN
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SEPTEMBER GARDEN CALENDAR

September is the time for cool-season lawn care. Devote some energy there to get your lawn back into shape. Fall-blooming perennials will start to turn on their colors also.

Vegetables and Fruits

- Continue to harvest vegetables
- Pick apples and pears and store in a cool place to extend freshness
- Harvest pumpkins when flesh is completely orange and avoid carrying by stem
- Harvest winter squash when rind is hard enough to puncture with fingernail
- Plant lettuce, spinach, and radishes
- Remove weeds from garden plantings before going to seed
- Herbs can be dug from garden and placed in pots for indoor use this winter
- Remove small tomatoes from their vines to increase late development of more mature fruits

Flowers

- Plant spring flowering bulbs, tulips, daffodils, and others
- Dig, divide, or plant peonies
- Divide perennials, especially spring bloomers
- Remove seed heads from perennials to prevent reseeding in the garden
- Plant chrysanthemums for fall color
- Dig gladiolus as foliage begins to yellow and air-dry before storing for winter
- Clean up garden areas to reduce insects and disease as plants dieback for winter
- Enrich soil by adding organic matter such as peat moss or compost

Lawns

- Plant or sod new bluegrass or tall fescue lawns
- Renovate bluegrass or tall fescue lawns by verticutting
- Core aerate cool season turf
- Fertilize cool season grasses with high nitrogen sources of fertilizer
- Mow turf at 2 to 3 inches and sharpen blade for a clean cut

Trees and Shrubs

- Plant trees and shrubs, deciduous and evergreen
- Rake up fallen leaves and compost
- Prune broken and dead branches from trees
- Avoid pruning spring flowering shrubs such as lilac and forsythia to ensure spring flowers
- Hand-pick bagworms to reduce problem in future

Houseplants

- Bring plants in before temperatures drop into the fifties
- Clean and wash before moving indoors to reduce insects
- Fertilize before winter conditions arrive and growth slows
- Poinsettias can be forced into Christmas bloom by starting dark treatment of short days

For more information about agriculture and gardening, contact the Cowley County Extension Office 221-5450, 441-4565.

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