



Fall Garden Tips

- **Plant pansies** now and enjoy flowers throughout winter into spring. **Deadhead** pansies regularly to prevent seed formation and promote flower production. **Liquid feed** pansies with fish emulsion every two weeks.
- **Divide and transplant** spring flowering perennials like iris, daylilies, and peonies.
- Before Thanksgiving, **plant spring flowering bulbs** such as allium, crocus, daffodils, and tulips. Broadcast bulb tone directly over the surface where bulbs are planted to encourage root development.
- Fall is a great time to **plant deciduous trees and shrubs** while they are not burdened with the production of flowers, foliage, or fruit; with the earth still warm, plants can focus solely on root growth.
- **Transplant evergreens.** Transplant deciduous trees and shrubs after leaves have fallen. A few days before transplanting, thoroughly water plants to be transplanted, water again immediately after transplanting, and water regularly thereafter.
- **Deeply water** established and newly planted shrubs in preparation for winter. Fall drought is often overlooked. It is vitally important to supply plants going into winter dormancy with adequate water to improve winter hardiness.
- Stay informed about chilling nighttime temperatures and plan to **move tropical plants indoors** before they are damaged by frost.
- **Clean and prepare** birdfeeders for winter.
- **Install netting** around aucuba, azaleas, yews, and roses to protect from deer browse. As an alternative, deer repellents can be sprayed, but spray must be reapplied regularly and after rain or snow.
- **Remove spent summer annuals** and vegetable plants by cutting tops and leaving roots. Rotting roots create tunnels where water, air, and roots will easily navigate the soil next season.
- Unless they have attractive winter interest forms or seed heads, **cut down perennials.** Leave some perennials standing in less visible areas of your garden to provide overwintering opportunities for beneficial insects such as butterflies, praying mantis, and predatory beetles.
- In preparation for the onslaught of leaves and garden debris from fall and winter garden cleanup, **empty your compost bins.** Use compost to top-dress garden beds and plants.
- **Clear future garden areas,** add compost and manure, till, and leave rough to allow frost action to kill weed seeds and diseases.
- Add fallen leaves and disease-free garden debris to compost pile.
- **Turn off outdoor water taps and drain.** Drain hoses and store loosely coiled, without kinks, in a dry location.
- **Enjoy a cleaner and healthier garden** throughout the winter. Your annual 1/2-inch layer of compost and 2-inch layer of mulch can be applied now. 🌱

NANCY AND PIERRE MOITRIER operate *Designs for Greener Gardens*, a boutique gardening company that specializes in designing, creating, developing, and maintaining distinctive gardens of all styles. Pierre hails from France and brings the charm of the Old World to their garden creations. Nancy's 40 years of gardening experience combined with her design knowledge and innate artistic eye add a superior dimension to their garden projects. Follow *Designs for Greener Gardens* on Facebook.

