

September Horticulture Hints

By Marianna Quartararo, Community Educator - Horticulture

- Fungal diseases were rampant this year. Reduce chance of infection for next year by practicing good garden sanitation. Remove all fallen leaves, flowers, fruit, branches, etc. Do not compost debris if you had disease problems.
- Fertilize your lawn now and again in late October/early November.
- Overseed your lawn early September. Fix bare patches.
- Plant spring flowering bulbs late September/early October.
- Divide peonies till mid-September.
- Time to plant garlic!
- Dig tender bulbs (dahlias, glads, etc) after tops die, allow to air dry and store in cool, dark place in peatmoss.
- Check your pH! Now is the best time to apply lime as needed.
- Keep an ear open to weather reports. If early frost is called for, cover warm season vegetables to prevent frost damage.
- Check house plants for insects. Treat if needed and move indoors to the best light conditions you have. Expect some leaf drop as the plants acclimate to indoor conditions.
- Harvest herbs - dry or freeze to use all winter.
- Rake leaves as they fall. Compost them or if you have a mulching mower, leave on the lawn as addition fertilizer.
- Prune to the ground floricanne raspberries that produced on second year canes in early summer.
- Continue to water newly planted trees and shrubs if there is insufficient rainfall until the ground freezes.
- Continue to cut turf as long as it grows.
- Harvest root crops and allow to dry for a few days before storing.
- Harvest pumpkins, winter squash and turnips, place in a cool, dry place to “cure” for a few days before winter storage. Leave stems on pumpkins and squash.