



September in the Garden

Sources: Texas Garden Almanac, Dr. Doug Welsh, Professor & Horticulturist, Texas A&M University, Texas Gardener Magazine, Chris S. Corby, Editor, Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, (www.fgmg.com)

Garden Tasks



- *Prepare the soil in beds where you plan to plant cool-season annuals. Work in plenty of compost and mulch the surface.
- *Continue to snip off dead blooms on roses and perennials to encourage more blossoms through the fall.
- *Continue to fertilize roses through the month, but stop all fertilizing at the end of September.
- *Give your gardenias some fertilizer this month.
- *Clean up under fruit and nut trees, removing fruit left on the ground or dried fruit on the trees. Stop any pruning that might otherwise encourage late-season growth which is especially susceptible to cold temperatures.
- *Warm-season annuals that are still hanging in there will benefit from a light serving of fertilizer followed by a good watering. A little pruning also encourages continued blooming.
- *You may notice fire ants making a renewed appearance. After laying dormant most of the hot summer they are beginning to forage again. If they are near or in your vegetable garden try this organic recipe to eliminate them. I've used it and found it to work wonderfully while not harming my food crops at all.

6oz orange oil

1 tablespoon molasses

Mix these in a gallon jug and fill with water. Add a couple of drops of dish detergent after you fill with water and shake gently to avoid too many suds. Drench the mound when the ants are not out foraging. Fire ants prefer cool temperatures and are usually in their mounds in the heat of the the day.

What to Plant



- *Fall is the perfect time to plant container-grown (NOT bare-root) trees and shrubs . Fall temperatures give these plants time to "stretch out" their roots and recover from transplanting.
- *September is a good time to plant Texas wildflower seeds. Purchase your seeds from a reliable source that has "fresh" seed from this year's crop. Some wildflowers such as bluebonnets, bluebells, and gaillardia are available as transplants.
- *When night temperatures dip into the 50's, replace your warm-season annuals with cool-season plants such as dianthus, petunias, alyssum, candytuft, cleome, calendula, chrysanthemum, cosmos, dahlia, four o'clock, gerbera, marigold, phlox, verbena or zinnia. Don't be too quick to plant Johnny-jump-ups, pansies, snapdragons and violas. They like the cooler temperatures of October.
- *September is a great time to plant many cool-season vegetables. The blue-leaved vegetables that are known as cole crops, such as cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, kohlrabi and kale, can be planted now. These vegetables perform best when planted as transplants. Leafy greens can be planted now such as swiss chard, bok choy and Chinese cabbage. Spinach likes cooler weather, so wait until the end of the month. Once the heat lets up toward the end of September set out bunching onions, shallots, leeks and garlic. Water them well at planting and fertilize when you see new growth appear. Peas (sugar snap, English and snow peas) can be planted at the end of the month. No need to fertilize these legumes but water sufficiently and provide some shade cover in the afternoon heat.
- *Plant chives, coriander (cilantro), dill, garlic, loveage and winter savory in your herb garden.