

# Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for October

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- **MOVE** baskets and pots to a shady area when Indian summer is hottest.
- **PRUNE** your berry vines hard after you have harvested the fruit for easier picking next season.
- **ORDER** spring bulbs from catalogs now for planting in November.
- **PICK** sorrel to add to salad, sauces and soups.
- **DEADHEAD** spent annuals.
- **PROPAGATE** geranium and pelargonium by cutting back no-blooming stems and planting in damp soil.
- **DESTROY** invasive star thistle that may have taken root in your garden. Animals and birds will not eat it and it must not be added to the compost pile.
- **BUY** trees boasting autumn colors now.
- **VISIT** nurseries to check out the fall selection of plants and bulbs. Suggestions in the tulip category include Greigii, single or double early blooming, triumph, Giant Darwin hybrid, lily flowering, parrot, peony, heirloom, viridiflora, fringed, crispa, single or double late blooming. Amazing how many varieties there are. Make sure to cool them in the refrigerator for six to 10 weeks before planting. Other bulbs to buy include narcissi (and there is an equal amount of varieties, sizes, shapes and colors), amaryllis, paperwhites, crocus, galanthus, scilla, iris, freesia, hyacinths, muscari, anemone, fritillaria, Dutch iris, allium, peonies and Asiatic lilies, for starters.
- **CHECK** around your house for fire hazards and flammable materials. October is the height of fire season.
- **FERTILIZE** begonias and roses for more blooms.
- **GATHER** seeds from bachelor buttons, cosmos and four-o'clocks to dry and save for spring planting.
- **FEED** your citrus.
- **TRANSPLANT** calendulas, Iceland poppies, dianthus, forget-me-nots, primroses, Shasta daisies, agapanthus and daylilies.
- **FREEZE** or can your extra harvest of fruit and vegetables for winter health.
- **EAT** the flowers of chives, garlic, basil, mint, dill and other flowering herbs, which are delicious and pretty in salads, sandwiches and soups.
- **HARVEST** the last of your grapes. Add the colorful leaves and twine the vines to form a spectacular autumnal arrangement.
- **RAKE** your leaves into a compost pile. Add lawn clippings, eggshells, food scraps (no meat) and coffee grounds. Stupendous soil will be ready to use before the holidays.
- **RESEED** tired lawns using low-water loving clover for less maintenance and fast, healthy growth.



*For bursts of color and easy care, save seeds of cosmos, bachelor button, and four-o'clocks for sowing next spring.*



*More seeds to gather for spring planting: Queen Anne's lace and purple bachelor buttons.*



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## New Tree Planting

Think of the tree you just purchased as a lifetime investment. How well your tree, and investment, grows depends on the type of tree and location you select for planting, the care you provide when the tree is planted, and follow-up care the tree receives after planting. The ideal time to plant trees and shrubs is during the dormant season—in the fall after their leaves drop or early spring before bud breaks. Weather conditions are cool and allow plants to establish roots in the new location. The proper handling during planting is essential to ensure a healthy future for new trees and shrubs.

So don't wait until it's too late, call your local Arborist at Advance Tree Service and Landscaping to help you find your perfect tree.

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