

Gardening Guide for October from Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

While winters are generally milder in our area, these are important steps to take to ensure the health of your garden this October:

- **PLACE** flags on sprinkler pop-up risers in lawns to make it easier to find them in the spring. Because I over-seed each year, roots in the grass form a thick carpet over the sprinkler heads, not allowing them to pop up. Without the flags, it takes hours of probing and digging to find the sprinklers.
- **BUY** colorful gourds and small pumpkins to brighten your porch. They will serve dual holidays with the simple addition of decorative spiders, skeletons, or ghouls for Halloween and a turkey, fall leaves, or pilgrims for Thanksgiving.
- **CLEAN** and cover patio furniture and cushions before storing for winter.
- **REMOVE** dead or diseased plants from your garden to prevent disease spread.
- **ADJUST** your irrigation schedule and stop watering when it rains.
- **REDUCE** lawn mowing frequency as grass growth slows.
- **ENSURE** container plants have adequate drainage to prevent waterlogging.
- **REFRIGERATE** your tulips for four to six weeks before planting. Daffodils and other spring-blooming bulbs can be planted anytime.
- **ENJOY** the soothing sounds of water with a pond or fountain.
- **TAKE** steps to protect your garden from gophers.
- **HARVEST** Asian pears at the height of their crunchiness.
- **PICK** tomatoes as they ripen or make fried green tomatoes.
- **SAVE** seeds of fennel for sowing and savory licorice flavors in recipes.

Prepare for this seasonal reset and you'll be ready to weather winter, whatever it will be.

Happy Gardening! Happy Growing.



Harvest Asian pears as they are crunchy and sweet.



Tomatoes grown in a window box are still providing fruit.



Mash dried fennel seed in a mortar with a pestle to create savory licorice flavors.