



Fall "IS" For Planting Too!

We've heard this saying "Fall is for planting" every year. Why? We ask ourselves do we really want to do any-more gardening? Well, let's think about this a minute. One big plus is that there are less insects buzzing around our heads and sucking our blood. No mosquitoes and gnats, that in itself will get me out in the garden. Let's not forget zero heat and humidity. Really there a a number of good reasons to garden this time of year not just for us but for the plants too. I've already mentioned a few reasons for us but let me tell you why it is one of the best times for plants. Plants that are planted in the fall enjoy cooler temperatures. It is also ideal growing conditions for them because it allows roots enough time to grow into the surrounding soil. So there's less stress on



Mow leaves for a great organic mulch

them and on us in constantly caring for them. Mother Nature does most of the work in establishing new fall plantings. Don't get me wrong, there is still a lot for us to do. Cleaning up and preparing our garden areas for next year saves us a lot of work next spring. This year I'm going to try to do a much better job preparing my garden for fall. I planted my veggie garden really late (after Memorial day). Because of all those rainy days I couldn't till up my garden when I usually do. I didn't even get my radishes in and I love homegrown radishes. Anyway, in this newsletter I'll give many ideas on fall clean up from your gardens to your tools. And as always there'll be much more. Happy FALL gardening!!

Clean Up Debris

This is very important for fall clean up. Remove all plant debris from the garden. Dead plants provide winter hiding places for insects and harbor pests that cause diseases. You should either turn



plant debris into the garden soil or compost it. Plant material that is diseased should not be put in your compost bin unless you are certain your compost has enough heat to kill the disease causing organisms.

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Fall Bulbs Are Here At Patty's Plants

- *Tulips, Daffodils, Crocus, Hyacinths, Iris reticulata, Muscari latifolium, Chionodoxa, Puschkinia*

- *Plus an awesome collection of : **Alliums ***

*11 different varieties
Deer resistant*

Fall Lawn Care-Organically (September - November)

This is a good time to boost your lawn. Applying slow-release fertilizer is a good thing to put down in the fall. This way, it is available to the lawn, plants, and trees as they first stir in late winter and early spring. I carry **Organica Lawn Booster** perfect for fall lawns.

Lawn Booster is a slow release organic enhanced fertilizer that is made of corn gluten meal, steamed bone meal, sulfate of potash and a select array of beneficial soil bacteria. It takes care of both soil health and plant

nutrition while also feeding the soil and grass. The beneficial soil bacteria increases the biological activity in the soil providing the ground work for healthy lawn growth. Corn gluten, bone meal and sulfate of potash provides your lawn with a natural & organic source of nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium. The Corn Gluten keeps weeds seeds from germinating. Lawn booster also provides grass with increased resistance to environmental stress (drought, heat, foot traffic). To find out more on:

Organica's 4-step Program

for organic lawn care go to:

www.pattysplants.com



To Prune Or Not To Prune Perennials

Some gardeners like to prune their perennial gardens in the fall to give it a nice clean look going into the winter. That's fine but I like to leave some plants for winter interest and to feed the birds with their seed heads. I prune my perennial herbs one last time to dry and store for winter use. As far as my perennials go, I only prune the perennials that have absolutely no winter interest or their dried stems/leaves help protect them during the harsh winter. These are some of the perennials that do better if pruned or

cleaned up in the spring: Asclepias

(Butterfly Weed), Chrysanthemums and Heuchera (Coral Bells).

Any perennials that turn into mush after a frost like Hosta should defiantly be cleaned up. They could harbor pests and diseases. If any perennials are diseased, you must prune them and like I said before



throw the foliage away, do not compost it. I leave the seeds heads of Echinacea (Purple Coneflower) and Rudbeckia (Black-Eyed Susan) because they will attract and feed the birds. Those along with Autumn Joy Sedum and grasses will also give winter interest. Mulch with crushed leaves or shredded bark after the ground starts to freeze so as not to get any little critters nesting and feeding on your plants all winter.

Cleaning Garden Tools

Don't wait until spring to clean up your garden tools. Pick out your favorites, use the ones that have seen better days as garden art. Find a way to recycle them creatively. Use this easy way which I use when cleaning my tools. If there is caked on soil, use mineral oil or even easier a spray on veggie oil. Spray it on and let sit for a few minutes then rinse off with the garden hose. Dry

with an old towel. Look to see if any tool has rust on it, rub with steel wool. Sharpen any tool that needs it, they will be easier to work with. If the wooden handles have splinters, use sandpaper and smooth out. Use linseed oil with a soft cloth to treat the wood. Clean your tools after using so you don't spread any diseases, fungi, insect eggs and viruses from

one plant to the next. By cleaning the tools this fall you'll be ready to get started right away in the spring.



Use old broken garden tools creatively.

Alliums and Other Deer Resistant Bulbs

I love Alliums or as my daughter calls them “Aliens.” I do have a few really funky ones and can see why she would call them that. Alliums offer a wide diversity of color, height, and blooming times. They’re great because they will tolerate poor garden soil and once established they will naturalize easily. Alliums are resistant to deer which is a big plus. They also make excellent cut flowers. Here is a list of other deer and critter resistant bulbs:

Daffodils (Narsissus)
Hyacinths
Crocuses

Snowdrops (Galanthus)
Winter Aconite (Eranthis)
Grape hyacinths (Muscari)
Squill (Puschkinia)
Frillilara (Crown Imperials)
These are some of the varieties of Alliums I am carrying in October at Patty’s Plants:

Allium Aflatunense Purple Sensation
Allium Albopilosum (christophii)
Allium Atropurpureum
Allium Caeruleum (azureum)
Allium Fireworks Mixture
Allium Gladiator
Allium Globe Master
Allium Mount Everest



Allium Schubertii
Allium Silver Spring
Allium Sphaerocephalon (drumstick Allium)
For more info:
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For info on Digging up non hardy bulbs, storing geraniums & tropical hibiscus go to: www.pattysplants.com *click on October 07

Improving Your Soil This Fall

You should improve your soil before seeding or sodding a lawn. If your soil is rock hard or clay, you could be in for disappointment when putting in a new lawn. Bad soil is a major cause of poor lawn performance or failure. This goes for your flower beds and vegetable gardens too. You need to keep amending your soil so it will continue to be fertile and productive over the years. Feed the soil and the soil will feed your plants. I always talk about worm castings, that is because earthworms help improve soil, but they prefer soils with plenty of organic matter so they can make really good castings. You'll have more earthworms in organically rich soils. Dig a spot in your

lawn or garden to see if it has any earthworms, if it doesn't have any, your soil needs amending. Adding sand to a clay soil might seem like you're adding the right stuff to break up the clay, but don't they make bricks using sand and clay? Organic matter, rather than sand, is much more beneficial to clay soil. Here are some types of organic matter can you add to your soil. **Shredded leaves** are one of the best choices. Just run a lawn mower over them and rake them into your gardens. **Composted** cow, horse, chicken manure is also really good whether you buy it or have your own. Just make sure it is really composted. If you have a composter use your own compost. Organic soil

amendments release their nutrients slowly over many months, so if you put them on in the fall they'll be available to your plants next spring. We carry **Bone meal, Kelp meal and Organic Compost** to help your soil. **Sewage sludge** or Milorganite is an organic soil amendment, but it may contain high levels of heavy metals such as lead and cadmium. Sewage sludge often is used on golf courses but I would never use in an area were you are growing herbs and vegetables. If you use this product, use it only on your lawn or, flower garden, nothing edible. **Sorry, we do not carry Milorganite.**



Patty's Plants

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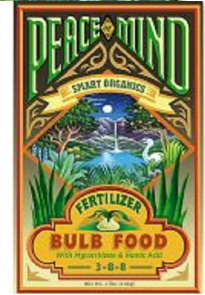
Fall Soil Amendment/ Fertilizers at Patty's Plants

Black Gold Garden Compost contains Canadian Sphagnum peat moss, compost and forest humus. This mix improves soil texture and moisture retention, encourages beneficial microorganisms and contributes important micronutrients.

Peace of Mind Bulb Food (3-8-8) gives tulips, daffodils, gladiolas, dahlias and many other flowering plants and trees just the right all-natural mixture of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium to encourage long-term blooming and increase plants' disease resistance. It's derived from feather meal, bone meal, sulfate of potash magnesia, bat guano, rock phosphate, kelp meal and gypsum. Good Stuff!!

Kelp Booster delivers high amounts of plant growth hormones to give plants added resilience. It provides essential nutrients to promote cell division, root development and overall growth. Specialized granular formula keeps plants pest and disease-free for superior harvests. A 20-pound bag covers 5000 square feet.

Sunleaves Peruvian Seabird Guano (10-10-2) offers the highest quality in organic fertilization and is even listed by the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI). Peruvian Seabird Guano is pelletized for water solubility with less mess. There is nothing like it for accelerating growth - growers can use Peruvian Seabird Guano **indoors** and out on houseplants, vegetables, ornamentals and fruit trees.



Grafting and Pruning

Plant Seal is a non-toxic sealant suitable for use on injured trees, freshly-grafted plants and specimens used to supply cuttings. Gardeners simply apply to the affected area to form a protective bandage, keeping essential moisture in and trouble-causing pests and pathogens out.



Plant Seal is completely water-soluble for easy clean-up.

Check out these products

From: BWGS

Cuttings

Rootstock Gel

.02-0-.1) may be used for most soft-stem and semi-hard wood cuttings. Rootstock is the **ONLY** organic cloning gel. Made from soybeans, kelp meal and sulfate of potash.

