



Cooler weather is on the way. It's not time to plant cool season plants yet but you definitely should continue watering and fertilizing (liquid fertilizer) the container plants. Check the plants often to stay ahead of the bugs.

Birds and Wildlife

- Keep bird baths full of water.
- Watch for hummingbirds as they make their way south.

Color

- Add compost to your flowerbeds for a little extra kick that tired flowers need.
- Flowering annuals can be transplanted now: alyssum, calendula, dianthus (pinks), flowering cabbage and kale, pansies, petunias, phlox, Shasta daisies, snapdragons, and stocks.
- Continue to feed patio plants and hanging baskets with a water-soluble fertilizer, such as 20-20-20 or Hasta-Gro.
- Fertilize roses one last time for continual blooming.
- Be careful about ordering bulbs from northern catalogues. It's a lot colder much sooner there than it is here.
- Plant bluebonnet seeds about ½ inch deep now to allow them to germinate in the fall. Water thoroughly.

Fruits and Nuts

- Cut back your blackberry bushes. You can maintain new canes at about 3-4 feet.

Ornamentals

- Caladiums need plenty of water this month.

Shade Trees and Shrubs

- You can plant trees and shrubs this month but next month would be even better.
- If you prune your oak trees, be sure to paint as soon as you cut.
- If you have trouble getting enough sunshine to your turf, do some "selective" pruning to open the canopy of the tree.

Turf Grass

- Cut way back on the lawn irrigation this month.
- This is a good month to plant Bermuda to get it established before winter sets in. Keep the seeds **MOIST** for about 10 days or so.

Vegetables

- Protect young seedlings from hot sun.
- Tender seedlings and transplants **MUST** be protected from the hot sun as well as from spider mites, stinkbugs, grasshoppers, and deer. Old sheer curtains do a great job. Mulching with oak leaves does a great job, too.
- Vegetable crops benefit from a side dressing of fertilizer to enhance their growth and production potential.
- It's time to plant squash, bush beans, cucumbers, radishes, carrots, beets, sweet corn, and potatoes.
- Check the drip irrigation system to be sure you're putting the right amount of moisture on the veggies when they need it.