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Next to April, October is about the best time to garden around here. The weather cools down a little and there is a definite feel of “fall in the air.”

Birds and Wildlife

- Continue to provide sugar-water for hummingbirds—4 parts water to 1 part sugar by volume.

Color

- You can plant roses this month through the winter. Use lots of compost and don't plant them any deeper than they were in the pot.
- This is the ideal time to plant cool-weather-loving annual flowers, including petunias, dianthus, ornamental cabbage and kale, phlox, and Shasta daisies.
- Put your spring-blooming bulbs in the ground in October and November if they got 6 weeks of chill in the fridge.
- Divide iris, phlox, daylilies, Shasta daisies, and other perennials. Give half to the neighbors and replant the other half.
- To brighten a landscape in the heat of the summer, plant lantana, bougainvillea, mandevilla vine, allamanda, hibiscus, salvia, periwinkle, marigold, zinnia, portulaca, purslane, copper plant, and Bush morning glory.
- Plant perennials now through December. Move any misplaced perennials that have already bloomed.
- Refrigerate tulip bulbs for 6-8 weeks in a paper bag prior to planting in December. Do not put them in the freezer.
- This is a good time to plant container-grown roses. Add lots of compost to the soil for the best bloom next spring.

Shade Trees and Shrubs

- It's safe to prune oak trees in July and August. Be sure to paint with latex-based paint all the cuts.
- This is NOT a good time to plant trees and shrubs. It's too hot.

Fruits and Nuts

- Continue watering pecan trees weekly. Harvest pecans as they fall to the ground.

Ornamentals

- Dig and store caladium bulbs for winter.
- This is a great time to plant perennials--columbine, old-fashioned roses, perennial asters, blue plumbago, rock rose, Shasta daisies, daylilies and irises.
- Reduce house plant fertilization by one-half during the late fall and winter.
- Fall-blooming annuals and perennials can be kept in flower longer and will look better if their maturing flowers are removed.
- This is a great time to plant some ornamental grasses that do so well here.

Turf Grass

- Apply “winterizer” fertilizer in a 3-1-2 or 8-1-2 (15-20 percent nitrogen) ratio this month.
- If you like to mow grass all year long, now is the time to plant rye grass.

Vegetables

- Plant cole crops such as broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, kohlrabi, and Brussels sprouts.
- Time to plant cool-season vegetable crops: beets, Chinese cabbage, carrots, collards, lettuce, mustard, parsley, garden peas, spinach, radishes and turnips.
- Plant garlic cloves and 1015 onion seeds (on 10-15).
Plant fall herbs

Questions?

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