

Central Virginia Master Gardeners

Autumn Gardening Chores

*A base on the far horizon,
The infinite tender sky,
The ripe, rich tints of the cornfields,
And the wild geese sailing high,
The charm of the goldenrod –
Some of us call it autumn,
And others call it God –*

W. H. Carruth

Category	Description
Ornamental Garden	<p>Early autumn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do not fertilize trees or shrubs as it may start new growth that will be winter-killed• Continue to deadhead flowers regularly• Fertilize late-blooming plants like chrysanthemums, fall perennials and continue to water them well• Cultivate/hoe beds and borders regularly to control weeds; mulch if you haven't already done so• Divide iris; divide gaillardia clumps older than 2 years• Rake up pine needles and used as mulch for azaleas, rhododendron, Andromeda and camellia• Take cuttings of fuchsia and geranium• Plant lilies and spring-flowing bulbs• Mow the lawn on a high setting; keep weeds from seeding a weakening the laws• Watch for signs of mildew and aphids and treat accordingly• Fertilize container plants regularly <p>Mid autumn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lay sod or sow grass seed for new lawns; water well• Don't forget to water the compost heap• Clean up the flower gardens; remove old stalks and leaves; any material from diseased plants should be destroyed• Watch for early frost and cover tender plants• Pick off all bag worms from evergreens• If you haven't completed your pruning, do it now; only prune dead wood on spring-blooming shrubs; remove dead, diseased and damaged wood• When growth has stopped and vanished foliage indicates a dormant condition, dig up a good root each of bleeding hear, anchusa, Oriental poppy. Cut these long roots into pieces and plant in rich loam; keep moist• Sow hardy annuals like larkspur, poppies, sweet alyssum, ageratum, calliopsis, cornflower, petunia and cosmos. If they come through the winter,

	<p>you will gain considerable time in the spring; if not, the seed lost will not amount to much</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lift gladioli, caladiums, dahlias, cannas as soon as tops are blackened by first frost • Take cuttings of fuchsia and geranium • Collect and compost leaves as they fall • Plant lilies and spring-flowering bulbs • If lime is needed, apply now • Apply soil conditioners such as manures and forms of commercial humus. • Excellent time to spray to control <p>Late autumn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drain and store hoses for winter • Once frost has arrived, empty out clay containers into compost pile and store them in the basement or garage to keep clay from cracking • Lift and divide herbaceous plants • Collect and compost leaves as they fall • Plant lilies and spring-flowering bulbs • Cut down the dead tops of herbaceous perennials • Plant trees and shrubs; good time to transplant • Water all evergreens before hard frost and water them during warm spells if possible
<p>Edible Garden</p>	<p>Early autumn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lift onions for storing • Lift and store main crop potatoes • Prune raspberries • Harvest apples • Clean and store stakes and supports that are no longer needed • Protect outdoor tomatoes with poly-tunnels to speed up ripening • Sow green manures <p>Mid autumn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant cabbages for spring harvest • Earth up celery and leeks • Bend over the leaves of cauliflowers to protect them from frost • Prune black currants and take hardwood cuttings of currants • Cut down asparagus • Start winter digging <p>Late autumn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bend over the leaves of cauliflowers to protect them from frosts • Pot up herbs for winter use

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hang up herbs to dry• Plant fruit bushes and trees• Continue winter digging• Lift and store root crops for winter use• Continue to harvest and store apples and pears• Take hardwood cuttings of currants
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