

Top Ten List – October

1. **Fall color** is ablaze throughout the Garden Center! With our climate we experience some great color on trees, shrubs, and perennials. These plants can color in phases over 6 weeks or so. Stop in several times and be amazed!
2. Fertilize the lawn with **Fall & Winter Fertilizer**. Give your trees, shrubs, and flowers a good feeding with **16-16-16**. Going organic? Use the **Sustane** products **8-2-4** or **4-6-4**.
3. **Dig** potatoes and gladiolas. **Clean** out the spent annuals from the flower, vegetable, and water gardens.
4. **Water** lawn areas, trees, shrubs, and perennial beds at least twice a week if warm or twice a month if cool since this month is usually dry.
5. **Spray** broadleaf evergreens such as rhododendrons, Oregon grape, pieris, heavenly bamboo, and euonymus with **Cloud Cover** or **Wilt Stop** this and every winter month to help combat moisture loss throughout the leaves.
6. **Remove hardy water plants** from your pond to give them some winter protection. East side of a building or in a trench if you have left them in their plastic pots. **Discard annual pond plants**, clean the filter, and skim the pond often. Leaves from maple and oak trees, especially, should never be allowed to slowly decompose in a pond. Put on a net now if you didn't last month.
7. **Bulbs** can still be planted, and the selection is still great. Don't put off planting too long, though. The bulbs won't be damaged by the cold, but your knees and hands might!
8. **Spray** your junipers and arborvitae with **copper** and **spreader sticker** to control a fungus which attacks the tips of the plants. Spray again in November with the same product.
9. **Add Sulphur** to garden, lawn, shrub, and perennial areas to help lower your pH over the winter. Applying in the fall causes **less burning** than a spring or summer application. It also helps control salt grass.
10. Try **composting**. Make sure that you add water, **biological stimulant**, and **fertilizer** so that you actually get something besides rot. Don't compost things that had diseased leaves.