

Top Ten List- September

1. September 15th is the prime target date for **seeding a lawn**. Because of warm soil, warm water, cool nights, and diminishing winds; it is the best time, and the lawn will be thick enough to stop the winter mud from being tracked inside.
2. Advantages of **fall planting**: Still-warm soil holds heat from summer, so roots begin growth. Winter air minimizes top growth, but roots continue to grow. In spring, top growth begins as root growth continues. Late spring warm air spurs up top growth. The large root system is now able to supply the maximum needs of water and nutrients for well-balanced growth.
3. **Stop deadheading** and pruning your roses until next April 15th.
4. **Watch for a hard freeze**. Sprinkler and drip systems can be damaged if the temperature falls below 20 degrees. Turn your system back on in a day or two. Buckets or drums painted black and filled with water give off heat through the night to help keep the tomatoes, peppers, and others from freezing. These help with frost protection along with **Harvest Guard** or cotton sheets. **No plastic**-it holds very little heat and blows easily. Drain and protect your bird baths and fountains.
5. **Cover your pond** with netting to keep unwanted leaves out.
6. **Bulbs! Bulbs! Bulbs!** Nothing heralds spring with more fervor than crocus, tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths. Most tulips and daffodils perform at their best for several years with good fertilization. After a number years, think about replacing those that look as though blooms are lacking their original size and number. Try a new design or color. Work in organics and fertilizer whenever possible because our soil needs it. Try using the naturalizing varieties for an even showier display in the future.
7. Before bringing your favorite geraniums and other houseplants inside for the winter, treat plants with **Bonide Systemic Houseplant Insect Control** to prevent indoor insect infestation.
8. **Plant Garlic** (California, Giant, Red, and Spanish) now for best size next year.
9. Trees and shrubs are changing, so look for great **fall foliage** for your yard!
10. **Plant** ornamental kale, cabbage, pansies, and violas for fall and winter color where summer annuals have begun to look spent. **Chase the blahs away** even when it snows. Mums and asters are in full swing, so pick some up for you and a friend!