

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 4-6-4** for blooming or fruiting plants or **Sustane 8-2-4** for all others.
3. **Clean** out the spent annuals from the flower, vegetable, and water gardens. **Dig** potatoes and gladiolas. Check any plants that were planted that had burlap and strings on it (usually pine, spruce, and occasionally deciduous). Cut these strings and pull the burlap back from the trunk.
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 **Wilt Stop** this and every winter month to help combat moisture loss throughout the leaves.
6. **Remove shallow water plants** (not waterlilies) 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. Trim back waterlily leaves that are reaching the surface. **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! Use **Bulb Food** or **Fish Bone Meal** to fertilize your bulbs.
8. **Spray** your junipers and arborvitaes 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. Make sure to water the sulfur in well if your area is not expecting measurable precipitation.
10. Try **composting**. Make sure that you add water and a **biological stimulant like organic fertilizer** so that you actually get something besides rot. Don't compost things that had diseased leaves.