

# MONTHLY GARDENING CHECKLIST

# October

October is the month to fully and unabashedly embrace Fall! Celebrate the changing of seasons by bringing some Fall color to your pots, pumpkins to your porch, and by planting a few new trees and shrubs! Our nurseries and garden centers have everything you need to deck out your outdoor and indoor spaces with the warm colors and textures of Autumn.



## FOR THE GARDEN

### Seasonal Color

- ☐ **Refresh containers and porch for Fall:** Pansies/Violas, Cabbage/Kale, Asters, Mums, Straw Bales, Pumpkins
- ☐ **Buy Fall bulbs for Spring color:** Crocuses, Tulips, Daffodils, Fritillarias, Alliums, Narcissi

### Planting & Maintenance

- ☐ **Plant woody shrubs, trees, and herbaceous perennials** now to encourage strong establishment over Winter.
- ☐ **Mulch for Winter protection:** Roses, Azaleas, Rhodies, berries; use **G&B Soil Building Conditioner**
- ☐ **Clean annual flower beds to suppress future pests:** Compost dead/fading annuals; mulch beds with manure or compost; discard annuals with fungal diseases.
- ☐ **Monitor landscape plants for problems:** Don't treat unless active pests/diseases are identified. For moles or gophers, use traps or repellants like **Bonide MoleMax**.
- ☐ **Test soil** with **home test kit** or OSU; amend as needed.
- ☐ **Place fuchsia hanging pots** where they won't freeze; don't cut back until spring.
- ☐ **Winterize irrigation system:** Contact our Irrigation Techs
- ☐ **Thin shrubs/trees only as needed;** further pruning may result in new growth that won't harden off before Winter.
- ☐ **Remove dead/damaged branches** and branches that may cause damage from wind or snow and ice.
- ☐ **Avoid cutting back** Grasses, Black-Eyed Susan, and plants with late-season seed heads—leave for birds!
- ☐ **Clean, sharpen, and oil tools and equipment** before storing for Winter. Store supplies and fertilizers in a safe, dry place out of reach of children, pets, and critters.

### Edible Gardening

- ☐ **Plant this month:** Garlic (bulbs), Fava Beans, overwintering Onions, Shallots
- ☐ **Sow cover crop seeds** in empty garden beds to improve and protect soil through Winter.

- ☐ **Dig and divide rhubarb** every 4 years, then replant and mulch with **G&B Harvest Supreme** or **Malibu Compost**.
- ☐ **Prune out dead fruiting canes** in raspberries; train and prune green canes for improved harvest next year.
- ☐ **Dormant spray apple/stone fruit trees after leaf fall** and dispose of windfall apples and diseased leaves.
- ☐ **Save seeds** from Summer vegetable/flower garden. Dry, date, label, and store in cool, dry spot for future planting!



## FOR THE LAWN

- ☐ **Seed and feed lawns** by October 15th so young grass can harden off before Winter. Warm soil temps and cool air are ideal for healthy lawn establishment.
- ☐ **Keep seeds moist** with a thin layer of **G&B Soil Building Conditioner**. Provide additional water as needed.



## INDOOR GARDENING

- ☐ **Houseplant care:** Slightly reduce watering frequency, reduce/stop fertilizing, and avoid repotting until March—indoor plant growth begins to slow down in October.
- ☐ **Check and treat** houseplants, tender plants, and tropical succulents for disease/insects before bringing indoors. Bring all tender plants in from outside by mid-October.
- ☐ **To force Christmas cactus to bloom in late December:** reduce water, place in cool area (50–55°F), and increase shade/dark time to 12–14 hours per day in early October.



## JUST FOR FUN

- ☐ **Porch-scape entryway** with heirloom pumpkins, a Fall wreath, and combo of fresh/dried plants for containers.
- ☐ **Make Succulent Pumpkins!** Carve as seasonal planter OR craft glue dried moss and succulent cuttings on top; embellish with seasonal accents; mist twice per week.
- ☐ **Give back to birds and bees** by leaving seed heads in place and fallen leaves in garden beds.