

# Fall Garden Checklist

The months from September to November are great for gardening. This is a quick checklist of things to do:

- . Fertilize your lawn in September with a Fall fertilizer to promote good root growth.
- . Apply limestone to your lawn and shrub/perennial beds
- . Remove weeds in the lawn by digging out the roots and apply a thin layer of soil with an overseeding of lawn seed to fill in holes and bare spots in the lawn. The cooler month of September is best for this.
- . Continue mowing until the grass stops growing; keep the grass a little higher for the last couple of mows.
  
- . Apply a thin layer of compost to perennial beds and work it in lightly to the soil.  
This is the time to divide large perennial clumps such as Hosta, Daylily, Bleeding heart and Peony
- . This is also a good time in early October to move around small shrubs, trees and perennials; dig out perennial weeds and clean up the planting beds before winter.
- . Once perennial foliage is turning yellow and dying down, cut back the leaves and place in the compost. Rake up leaves and debris from the planting beds.
  
- . Do up a plan for Fall bulbs so you will have a colourful Springtime show . Use bulbs which will fill those Spring gaps around perennials and under shade trees and shrubs. Plant bulbs from mid September to mid November.
- . If you want to try forcing bulbs, pot them up in a soilless mix in late October and store in a cool, frost free area for the winter. See our information sheet on forcing bulbs.
  
- . Soak your evergreens a few times in late October to early November before the ground freezes to help prevent winter drying out.
  
- . Turn the compost and use up the well rotted material.
  
- . Lift frost sensitive bulbs such as dahlias, gladioli and begonias before the first hard frost of October, clean off soil and store in dry newspaper in a cool but frost free location in the dark.
  
- . Plants such as Rhododendrons benefit from having a burlap shelter placed around them for the winter. If your garden gets a pile of snow in one area, tying up shrubs and evergreens may help prevent broken branches.
  
- . Don't forget to drain water hoses and put them inside for winter. Empty all containers outside and wash them to remove insect and slug eggs before storing them inside. Remember that clay and ceramic may break outside in the winter unless they are a frost proof pot.
  
- . Clean up the last of the vegetable beds; turn the soil and add lime and compost so you are ready to start again next Spring!

