

Top 10 Tips For Gardening In August, September & October

There is always something to keep Texans busy in the garden. Here are some timely tips on what can be done in Collin County during August, September, and October.

August

- Remove weak or dead wood from trees and shrubs. Hold off on major pruning until mid-winter.
- If you get them in the ground early in the month, there is still time to plant tomato and pepper transplants for a fall harvest.
- August temperatures are hot. Water deeply using the Cycle & Soak method to prevent water waste and runoff.
- Mulch vegetable gardens, flower beds, and around trees and shrubs to keep soil temperatures cooler and reduce weeds.
- You can still set out warm-season annuals such as celosias, copper plants, marigolds, and zinnias for fall color.
- Deadhead and “trim” containers to encourage new growth for fall.
- Plant bluebonnet and other spring wildflower seeds late in the month so they can germinate and develop root systems.

September

- Plant cool season vegetables. Broccoli, cauliflower, and leaf lettuce will grow better in cooler weather. Herbs also thrive in cooler temperatures. Savor a new harvest of cilantro, chive and dill.
- Divide spring flowering perennials, including cannas, daylily, iris, Shasta daisy, rudebeckia, and lirope. Transplant to a new location or share with friends.
- Fall is a great time to plant container-grown trees and shrubs, as well as perennial flowers.
- Maintain your hummingbird feeders. Hummingbirds begin their migration south in the last weeks of September.
- When night temperatures drop in mid-to-late September plant chrysanthemums. Purchase plants with tight buds for longer bloom time.

October

- Continue planting cool-season vegetables like spinach, arugula, beets, and garlic.
- Harvest seeds from your favorite plants. Allow to air dry and store in a labeled envelope.
- Plant bulbs, perennials and shrubs.
- Continue to divide and reset perennials like daylilies and iris.
- Set out cool-weather bedding plants such as pansies, violas, stock, snapdragons and dianthus at the end of the month.
- Clean and sharpen tools at the end of the month so they'll be ready to use when the gardening bug bites in the spring.

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