

Fall Garden Activities

Cooler weather and rain makes even the most burnt-out gardeners come to life. Here's a list of some things to do in the garden this season.

PLANT

- and transplant evergreen trees, shrubs, ground covers, perennials nearly spring bulbs
- container-grown asters, chrysanthemums
- wildflower meadows (Use regional mix for best results.)
- Pot hardy spring bulbs (anemone, crocus, daffodil, hyacinth, ranunculus, tulip); place cool garage or sink into the ground and mulch. Keep evenly moist; bring into house in December to force bloom.

PRUNE

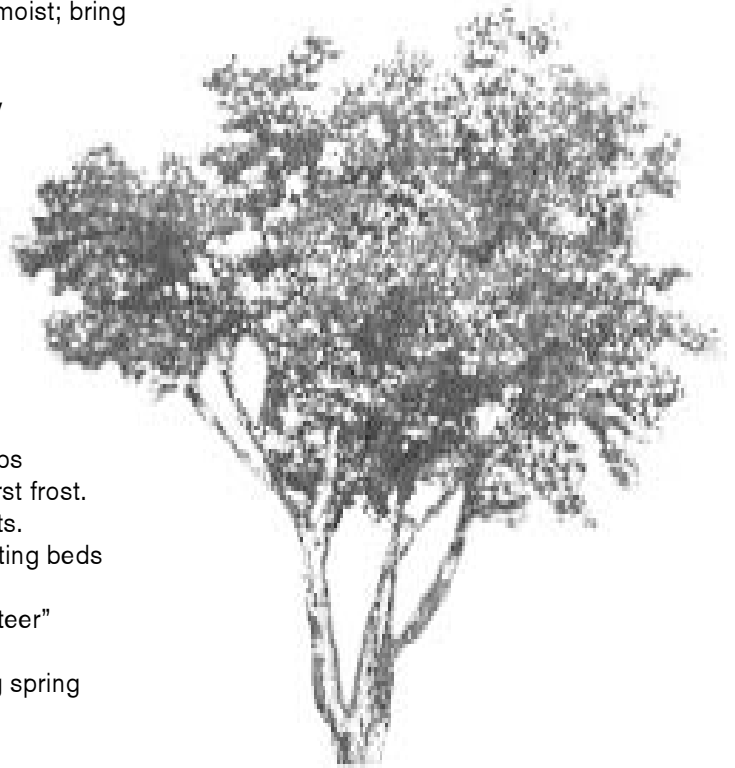
- Root-prune to ready plants for spring transplanting (especially broadleaf evergreens).
- Root-prune wisteria reluctant to bloom.

FERTILIZE

- peonies with bonemeal.
- roses

CHORES & MAINTENANCE

- Complete major fall lawn work. Seed or sod new lawn. Keep grass seed damp; sprinkle every day if necessary. Mow when new grass is 3" high.
- Feed established lawns to stimulate winter root development. Water bulb beds if season is dry. Lift tender bulbs (caladium, canna, dahlia, gladiolus, tuberous begonia) after first frost.
- Move tender perennials to cold frame or mulch to protect roots.
- Prepare beds for fall and spring planting. Edge and weed existing beds and mulch.
- Dig and divide crowded summer perennials; transplant "volunteer" perennials.
- Mark late-emerging perennials to avoid damaging them during spring cleanup
- Pot tender perennials to winter over in cold frame or garage.
- Continue to water trees and shrubs until ground freezes.
- Begin feeding birds.



Read Robin Milliken's Master Gardener column monthly in The Olathe Daily News and online at www.handrlawn.com.

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