



September Garden Tips

BUGS – For root weevils on rhododendrons and azaleas use parasitic nematodes. Use Sluggo and Sluggo Plus for slugs and other slimy critters. Use copper spray on those peach and cherry trees. Cucumber beetles have been a pain this year. Spinosad seems to work good on them. Remember, you don't need to resort to those chemical synthetic pesticides. We have eco-friendly pest management products for your garden.

BULBS – Time to dig tuberous begonia bulbs and store in a dry location for the winter. Fall bulbs will be in at HGG this month to plant for spring color. Daffodils, tulips, iris and crocus are coming soon. Get those beds ready using calcium and phosphorus to prepare the soil. We have Down to Earth organic fertilizers sitting on the shelf ready for you to take home.

LAWNS – This is the most important time of the year to fertilize! Use an organic type fertilizer applied in mid to late September and again in mid November. Also apply Dolomite Lime. It's a good time to overseed and repair those bad spots. We have sun and shade mixes available. Keep watering until the rain takes over, about an inch a week.

PRUNING – It's really getting close to the time to stop pruning for the year. You can do some pruning and heading back now which will allow some re-growth before winter, but don't go too heavy. It's best to hold out till dormant season for most deciduous shrubs and trees.

PLANTING – Fall is a good time for planting and transplanting trees, shrubs and perennials. They can get their roots out into the warm soil and be poised to come out strong in the spring.

MULCH – Apply 2-4 inches on compost/mulch in your flower beds. Vegetable gardens can use a cover crop/mulch for the winter. We now have cover crops on the shelf. I would discourage the use of bark only mulches because they don't add much to the soil.

PERENNIAL BEDS – Late September, and into November, you want to clean up your perennials, cutting back spent flowers and cleaning out dead undergrowth. It's a good time to divide peonies, iris, bleeding heart and daylilies too. Stake those tall flowers that are still going strong.