

9/29/ 2015

Flower bulbs:

- An interesting fall blooming flower bulb is the winter aconite. Plant this bulb this month, and it will bloom later this fall with beautiful yellow flowers. This bulb will re-bloom every fall.
- To keep existing clumps of daffodils and newly planted bulbs strong enough to re-bloom year after year, you need to fertilize them with [Garden Trust](#) this month or when planting new bulbs. Do not put *Garden Trust* in the planting hole. Place the *Garden Trust* on top of the bed after planting, and sprinkle the *Garden Trust* in areas that you believe bulbs have been previously planted.
- Do not rely on *Bonemeal* to feed your spring blooming Dutch flower bulbs. Cool soil temperatures do not allow organic fertilizers to be effective. Spring blooming bulbs need lots of fertilizer when rooting in the late fall and early spring to prepare for the spring bloom and subsequent years of re-blooming. *Bonemeal* is better used in spring as a supplemental fertilizer for the summer blooming flowers bulbs, like gladiolus or dahlias.
- Also check the pH with your *luster leaf Ph tester* when planting or growing flower bulbs. The average pH for spring flowering bulbs is 6.5. If the pH is too low add [Bonide Hydrated Lime](#).
- Dutch flower bulbs are now available at your local garden center. Select medium to large bulbs from bulk/loose displays. Do not select pre-packaged bags of bulbs because they are usually smaller sized bulbs. For instance, 12+up cm size tulips are sold in bulk displays; 11-12cm sized bulbs are often sold in pre-packaged packages.

Flowers:

- Local grown fall mums and pansies can be planted now. After planting pansies deer proof them with Bonide Repells-all. Apply this product the same day as planting the pansies. After deer have sampled your pansies, it is much harder to repel them. Feed The pansies one time with [Garden Trust](#) for the season.

Do not prune flowering shrubs anymore if you want to enjoy their flowers next year.

- Perennial beds with weeds need to be cleared and treated with Turf Trust Gallery before mulching to prevent winter and spring weeds (like henbit, chickweed, and spurge).

Lawn:

- Lawns that are neglected, but still look nice, are most likely crabgrass lawns. These lawns will die after the first frost.
- Lawns in cooler climates can be renovated by skipping applications of weed killers. Cut your lawn short. Rake out the weeds and crabgrass with a *cavex rake* or a *power rake*. Sow your grass seed directly in the remaining grass even with the weeds and crab grass left behind. With the cooler weather, the crab grass will die on its own. The weeds can be dealt with later.
- It is important to get your grass seed sown as soon as possible. Soil temperatures fall fast in our Northern Broadcast areas. Soon, some varieties of tall fescue and

bluegrass seed will not be able to germinate in the cooler temperatures. An advantage of using Water saver R.T.F. tall fescue grass seed is that it will more readily germinate in lower soil temperatures than other varieties of tall fescue grass seed. Lightly water the newly seeded Water Saver RTF daily until it germinates. After germination water longer but less frequently. Apply kick start to the newly seeded areas 3-5 days after seeding.

Shrubs:

Hydrangeas that look pale and the leaves develop maroon brown spots and yellowing leaves are running out of food. Next season feed them twice with Garden Trust. Once in the early spring and once again after the final set of flowers.

Overwatering of established re blooming Hydrangeas , compost rich soil with excessive nitrogen and too much shade can cause them not to bloom.