

10/07/2015

Summer Flowers / Vegetables

- Vinca flowers can be replaced with winter pansies. Use Bonide repels-all after planting to keep the deer away.
- You can also replace declining summer flowers with Red Rhubarb SwissChard to create a colorful edible border which can be harvested every 2-3 weeks this fall.
- Hardneck garlic planted in the fall and California softneck garlic can be planted for a summer harvest.

Perennials:

- Cut back perennials that are brown and withered. Divide overgrown perennials this fall, and feed them with [Plant Trust Flower and Bulb fertilizer](#).

Flowering Bushes:

- Do not prune any spring flowering shrubs, like Azaleas, Rhododendrons, Lilac, Forsythia, Spirea, Viburnum, Deutzia, or Weigela. If they are pruned now, next years flower buds will be removed.

Tree and Shrubs:

- The best time to touch up your landscaping is now while the weather is cooler. You can plant new trees or do a complete landscape overhaul. Plants planted in the fall, will have a stronger root system than plants planted in the spring. Also, an application of [Kick Start](#) after planting trees and shrubs will improve root systems. Stronger roots will help plants thrive during next year's summer heat.
- Many trees and plants are available now at very reasonable prices. Check your local garden center for current selections.

Holiday Plants:

- Keep Christmas and Thanksgiving cactus in a place where the night temperatures will be below 50 degrees for 5-6 days to trigger flower bud formation. After the 5-6 cool nights, you can place your holiday cactus in a place where you will later enjoy its flowers. The best place to grow an indoor holiday cactus is a place that has plenty of light and is somewhat cool. Water the cactus when it is almost dry, and use [Seamate](#) every time you water. Use a [Luster Leaf moisture meter](#) to check the moisture of the soil deeper down in the pot. The top of the soil will always feel dry. Holiday cactus can be easily overwatered.

Lawn:

- Emerging wild garlic and onions in your lawn can be eradicated by spot spraying with [Clear Choice Lawn Weed Killer](#). This will not cause harm to the lawn.
- Those who are getting started late on their lawn renovations may ignore weeds for now. It is more important to have fertilizing and seeding done at this time. You can take care of the weeds later.
- After grass seed has germinated, treat the entire lawn with [Kick Start](#) to help promote a thriving root system. Additionally, *Kick Start* will make any fertilizer application more efficient.
- If you do not have any extra time to spend on your lawn, then you should at least feed the lawn with [Turf Trust](#). Lawns that are not routinely fed with fertilizer will decline and can be overtaken by clover and weeds.

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Remember Fall is the best time of year for seeding.

Dutch flower bulbs:

If you are in zone 8 or warmer, you need to precool your bulbs especially tulips. Cold-hardy bulbs that need pre-cooling in warm winter regions must be treated as annuals and new bulbs must be planted the following fall. Pre-chill the bulbs for a minimum of six to eight weeks in a refrigerator at a temperature of around 40°F to 45°F (the temperature of most home refrigerators). If you use a refrigerator, be sure not to store any apples or other fruits alongside your bulbs. Ripening fruit naturally gives off ethylene gas which will kill the flower inside the bulbs.