

September Gardening Tips

from the UCONN Extension

- Mid to late September is a great time to plant accent plants, like mums and asters, that will provide autumn colors in the landscape.
- Plant peonies now, but make sure the crowns are buried only one and a half to two inches below ground level. Planting them deeper than two inches may keep them from blooming.
- Divide daylilies, peonies, iris, and phlox.
- Rake up leaves, twigs, and fruit from crabapple trees and throw them in the garbage to help control apple scab disease.
- Wood ashes contain potassium and calcium and can be used as a limestone substitute in vegetable and flowerbeds if the soil pH needs to be raised and these nutrients are recommended.
- Remove and compost spent plants and leaves, continue deadheading except for coneflowers which provide food for birds postseason.
- Continue to turn and moisten compost piles to speed decomposition.
- Watch for frost warnings and cover tender plants. If frost threatens, bring houseplants indoors.
- Wait until after a light frost to harvest peas, cabbage and beets from your fall garden to obtain the best flavor.
- Early fall is a good time to plant trees and shrubs and allows time for the root systems to get established before the ground freezes.
- Continue weeding garden and shrub beds.
- If pesky seedlings of woody plants, such as maple, elm or hackberry are found growing in your yard, remove them as soon as possible so they won't take over gardens and other landscape plantings.
- Take cuttings of begonias, geraniums, coleus, etc. to grow as houseplants.
- Pot up or propagate herbs to bring indoors for winter use.
- Continue to re-seed bare patches on your lawn and prepare the ground for sowing a new lawn, while the earth is still warm.
- Now is the time to de-thatch and aerate lawns to promote root growth if necessary.
- September is a great time to seed or overseed lawns.