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3166 Willow Creek Road, Prescott
www.mortimer-nursery.com
776-8000 / info@mortimer-nursery.com

Fall In The Garden



It's the end of September and there's a bit of a chill in the morning air...Fall is arriving. But it's not quite time to put your gardening tools away.

Here are some tips to keep you busy in the garden during the cooler days of October:

- Fall is a great time for planting trees, shrubs and perennials. Why? The cooler temperatures make transplanting easier on the plants (and you!). Plus a few more months of warm soil temperature gives the roots time to settle in - which means your plants are ready to take off and grow in Spring! Use root stimulator when you plant in the fall but avoid high nitrogen fertilizer. Nitrogen will force new growth which is not desirable this late in the season. Water your new plants well and then remember to water your new plants once or twice a month on warm winter afternoons.
- Fall is also a good time to transplant. Once deciduous trees and shrubs have gone dormant you can transplant them with little concern. Just make sure to dig up as much of the root ball as possible and get the plant settled into its new spot quickly so that the roots don't dry out. As with new plants, water transplanted trees or shrubs well and water once or twice a month on warm winter afternoons.
- Freshen up your containers with cool season annuals – pansies, violas, snapdragons, and ornamental kale will all last through fall and well into winter.
- Perennials that have been in the ground for several years (typically 3 – 5 years) often benefit from division. Once the plant has gone dormant, it can be dug up and divided with a sharp knife. This will give you new perennials either for your garden or to share with friends. Division also rejuvenates perennials so they produce more blooms. There are a few perennials that do not benefit from division so if you're unsure then check a reputable source before dividing.
- October is the month to plant spring-blooming bulbs. Bulbs, such as crocus, daffodils and tulips, need time in the cool soil of winter in order to bloom in Spring. Don't miss out on a beautiful Spring show – get your bulbs in the ground now.

- Lawns will benefit from an application of winterizer fertilizer in Fall. A winterizer will help roots grow and increase hardiness without encouraging new growth.



- Plant cool weather vegetables such as cabbage, kale, beets, broccoli, lettuce, and spinach so you can keep harvesting fresh veggies throughout Fall and early winter.

So don't retreat inside just yet. There's still plenty to do outside in the cool and pleasant days of Fall!