

Gardening Article

The month of October provides us with cooling air temperatures and warm soil temperatures, making it a great month for planting. The idea of planting this month is to give your plants a head start before winter arrives. Plant everything except heat-loving vegetables, summer annuals, and frost tender plants.

Plant new lawns or renovate existing lawns. A lawn fertilizer should also be applied by mid-month. Fertilize deciduous trees and over-wintering shrubs with a low nitrogen fertilizer to help promote cold-hardiness. For color, plant cool season annuals, such as coneflowers, pansies, primroses, and Iceland poppies. Spring blooming bulbs should be planted this month placing mulch over them to prevent early emergence. Plants to start from seed include, but are not limited to, foxgloves, candytuft, columbine, coral-bells, and dianthus. Wildflower seeds may also be scattered this month. It is also time to sow or transplant cool-season vegetables. Be on the look out for whiteflies, leafhoppers, and spider mites.

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