

Gardening Article

The heat is finally beginning to break, and it is starting to feel good to work in the garden again. As fall approaches, it is time to perk up fescue lawns, plant a winter vegetable garden, divide perennials, and make room for spring bulbs. Perennials and shrubs planted now will grow roots before winter comes and be ready to take off next spring.

With cooler air on its way, it is time to start reviving those fescue lawns. If you haven't taken a soil test for your lawn, now is a good time to do so. Preparing a soil sample to be tested is very simple and well worth it. Randomly select 6-8 sampling locations per 10,000 square feet of lawn area. After removing debris and other litter, dig down 3" for lawn renovation and 6" for a new lawn using a hand trowel, place the samples in a disposable bag and take them to your local Co-op to be sent off. When the test arrives and is analyzed you are ready to fertilize your lawn. Don't overseed this month unless the heat breaks, it is a good idea to wait until this time to aerate and de-thatch too. A preemergent herbicide should also be considered this month to prevent winter weeds.

With seasons changing this month there are several gardening chores we should tend to. It is time to prune and fertilize annuals and perennials. Roses should be trimmed and fertilized in order to prepare them for a late bloom cycle. Go ahead and prepare vegetable beds for cool-season vegetables, like broccoli, cauliflower, radishes, beets, spinach, lettuce, peas, carrots, and chard. Bearded iris foliage should be trimmed to six-inch fans to help them maintain their food reserve. To keep containers flourishing with color, replant them with late-summer annuals such as salvia and zinnia. Once the soil has cooled plant daylilies and bulbs. There are several perennials to start from seed this month or next, like foxgloves, candytuft, columbine, coral-bells, dianthus, and many more.

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