

The October
HORT REPORT
Helpful tips from
Barbara Chadwick
OSU Master Gardener
Ross Seed Company

FARMER'S ALMANAC 'Best Days in October'

- PLANTING ABOVE GROUND CROPS: 7, 8, 16.
- PLANTING BELOW GROUND CROPS: 26, 27.
- HARVEST ABOVE GROUND CROPS: 12, 13.
- HARVEST BELOW GROUND CROPS: 3, 4, 31.
- PRUNE TO ENCOURAGE GROWTH: 18, 19.
- PRUNE TO DISCOURAGE GROWTH: 1, 2, 28, 29, 30.
- DESTROY PESTS AND WEEDS: 18, 19, 20.
- CUT HAY: 18, 19, 20.
- FISHING: 6 - 20.

Other important October dates:

- CHILD HEALTH DAY: 4.
- COLUMBUS DAY: 11.
- FARMER'S DAY: 12.
- UNITED NATIONS DAY: 24.
- HALLOWEEN: 31.

FULL "HUNTER'S MOON" IS OCTOBER 20TH

October's full moon is believed to have been named the Hunter's Moon because it signaled the time to go hunting in preparation for the cold winter ahead. Animals are beginning to fatten up ahead of winter, and since the farmer's had recently cleaned out their fields under the Harvest Moon, hunters could easily see the deer and other animals that had come out to root through the remaining scraps. Other names for October's full moon include 'FALLING LEAVES MOON'... highlighting the transition between summer and fall. And 'MIGRATING MOON'... referring to when the birds begin to fly south to warmer climates.

Moon Folklores:

- Corn planted under a waning moon grows slower but yields larger ears.
- Babies born a day after the full moon enjoy success and endurance.
- A new moon in your dreams promises increased wealth or a happy marriage.

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

LAWN & TURF:

- Continue to replant or establish cool-season lawns, like fescue.

- The mowing height for fescue should be lowered to approximately 2½ inches for fall and winter cuttings.
- Broadleaf weeds, like dandelions, can be easily controlled with a pre-emergent.
- Mow and neatly edge warm season lawns before the first killing frost.

VEGETABLE GARDENS:

- Dig sweet potatoes and harvest pumpkins and winter squash.
- Remove green fruit from tomato plants when frost threatens.
- Harvest oriental persimmons and paw paws as they begin to change color.
- There is still time to plant radishes and mustard in the garden.
- Use a cold frame device to plant spinach, lettuce, and various other cool-season crops for production through most of the winter.
- Plant cool-season cover crops, such as: Austrian winter peas, buckwheat, crimson clover, and rye in otherwise bare garden plots.
- Remove all debris from your garden to prevent overwintering of various garden pests.
- Start new plantings. Prepare beds with plenty of organic matter.

GENERAL LANDSCAPE:

- Plant cool-season annuals, such as: pansies, ornamental cabbage and kale, snapdragons and dusty miller when temperatures begin to cool.
- Plant spring-flowering bulbs, such as: tulips, crocus, hyacinths and daffodils.
- Groundcovers, such as: ajuga, vinca, English ivy, alyssum, moneywort, thrift, phlox, and leadwort are excellent companion plants for bulbs.
- Peonies, daylilies, and other spring-flowering perennials should be divided or planted now.
- Dig out tender perennials like cannas, dahlias, and caladiums. Store them in a cool dry place.
- Many perennials can be planted at this time, and we have a good selection available right now at our Chickasha store.
- Now is the time to plant mums and asters. Be sure to keep them watered during dry conditions. Don't crowd when planting since they take a couple of years to reach maturity.
- Check and treat houseplants for insect pests before bringing them indoors and repot root-bound plants.

WATER GARDENS:

- Move tropical water garden plants indoors when water temperatures are near 50 degrees.
- Close the water garden for the winter by placing hardy plants in the deeper areas of the pool.
- Stop feeding the fish.
- Cover with bird netting to catch dropping leaves in winter months.

FLOWER BULBS IN THE GARDEN: LOOK FORWARD TO SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL!

It seems we can all visualize a spring garden full of blooms and fragrance. Other than the initial planting, flower bulbs require little else. Just plant and forget... one and done! DIG, DROP, DONE! Now is the time to get your bulbs in for those beautiful spring flowers.

So, here's the MAGIC! Bulbs that naturalize do their own garden work every year. They come up in all their glory and bloom without you having to lift a finger. When a plant "naturalizes" it becomes comfortable in the environment into which it is introduced. And, as they increase in number, your floral display grows larger every year. Bulbs are underground flower incubators. Deep in the bulb, a tiny baby flower is resting until it's time to burst into life. Surrounded inside with enough perfect food to nourish it through long dormancy periods, and a covering that protects it until it opens, the bulb nurtures it until it is the perfect time to sprout, and then it sends forth a magnificent specimen. When the flower had finished its bloom cycle, the drying leaves feed the bulb until they wilt away for the

winter. Whether corms, tubers, or true bulbs, the flower bulb is a wonder of nature that not only cares for itself underground but reproduces without any effort on our part. COME SEE US TODAY FOR ALL YOUR SPRING BULB NEEDS... WE CARRY A GREAT SELECTION!

Bulb Rules:

- The bigger the bulb, the BIGGER THE FLOWER.
- Bulbs should be planted at a depth of twice their height.
- Most bulbs require good soil drainage.
- Green foliage MUST BE ALLOWED TO RIPEN AND TURN BROWN... no braiding, cutting off, or any other cutesy stuff.
- Shop early for best selections.
- Read labels for planting instructions.
- Be wary of a bargain.
- Inspect the bulbs before you buy them. Healthy bulbs are generally FIRM BULBS.
- Steer clear of bulbs that are mushy or show signs of mold or fungus.

IT'S FALL YA'LL...

TIME TO PRUNE YOUR PERENNIAL HIBISCUS

Commonly known as 'Hardy Hibiscus', the perennial hibiscus may look delicate, but this tough plant produces huge exotic-looking flowers that rival those of a tropical hibiscus. When it comes to pruning, there's no need for stress. Although this easy-care plant requires very little pruning, regular maintenance will keep it healthy and promote bigger and better flowers.

Cut any dead stems or branches down to 8-12 inches in fall, just before applying a protective layer of mulch. Pull back mulch in the spring when there is no longer the danger of a hard freeze hitting. If any branches freeze during the winter, cut these to the ground.

When new growth appears, you can trim and shape the plant as desired. Keep in mind that perennial hibiscus is a slow starter, so don't worry if no growth is present in early spring. It may take a string of warm days before the plant decides to emerge. Pinch back growing tips with your fingers when they reach a height of about 6 inches. Pinching will encourage the plant to branch out, which means a bushier plant with more blooms. Don't wait too long, as flowers bloom on 'NEW GROWTH' and pinching too late could delay flowering. However, if growth appears spindly or thin, you CAN pinch the plant's "GROWING TIPS" again once they reach about 10-12 inches.

Deadhead wilted blooms throughout the season to keep the plant neat and encourage a longer blooming period. To deadhead, simply pinch the old blooms with your fingernails, or snip them with pruners. Some types of perennial hibiscus can be rambunctious self-seeders. If this is a concern, be vigilant about deadheading old blooms, which will prevent the plant from setting seed.

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS... GRATITUDE/NATURE

GRATITUDE is the quality of being thankful, readiness to show appreciation for, and to return kindness. **See the good in the world,** there really is so much of it. **See the wonder in the world,** we are surrounded by it.

GRATITUDE is simply showing appreciation or being thankful. I am very grateful for my family, my job, and our customers. But, when we are busy, in the rush of daily life, sometimes it can be the last thing we think about. Do we wake up each morning and give thanks for another day? We tend to rush into each day, alarms going off, places to be, things to do. Just taking a moment to realize the gift of another day is important.

GRATITUDE is imagining. It gives us the ability to flip negatives into positives. Even in the darkest times, there are things to be grateful for. The secret is to practice showing gratitude daily. Just like a muscle, the more you use it, the stronger it becomes. You don't need to change your world to be happier, you simply need to change your mind, and gratitude helps you do just that.

TRUE MIRACLES ARE FOUND IN THE "NATURAL WORLD"

I am grateful for NATURE. Nature is a constant source of joy in my life. It reminds me of how resilient life really is, with its beauty and power. Nature makes me feel connected in an often-disconnected world. It resets me and brings me back into balance. I always feel like I belong in nature, and it never fails to welcome and reward me. Nature is a wonderful teacher that has so much wisdom to offer, if I stop and listen. Nature makes me feel at peace and reduces my stress levels. It grounds me to the earth and is where I go to find true meaning and connection to something greater than myself. Nature represents change as a constant and necessary process and teaches me about diversity and how beauty is represented in so many different forms. It allows me to SLOW DOWN AND JUST BE. It is so fascinating and totally captivating. It inspires me. I am truly thankful for NATURE and how astonishingly beautiful and amazing it is. It makes me feel HAPPY and at PEACE with the world by just being at one with it. Get out into NATURE today with your family and experience the sheer wonder of it all.

VERY IMPORTANT OCTOBER DATES

Here are the super important October dates you knew nothing about:

- October 1... HOMEMADE COOKIE DAY
- October 5... DO SOMETHING NICE DAY
- October 11... IT'S MY PARTY DAY
- October 16... DICTIONARY DAY
- October 21... BABBLING DAY
- October 23... TV TALK SHOW HOST DAY
- October 31... INCREASE YOUR PSYCHIC POWERS DAY

**Till next month... be careful out there
and ENJOY the changing seasons!**

**Be sure to like and follow us on Facebook and follow our
Instagram! To download this month's newsletter, visit
www.rossseed.com.**