

The November  
**HORT REPORT**  
Helpful tips from  
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**FARMER'S ALMANAC 'Best Days in November'**

- PLANT ABOVE GROUND CROPS: 12, 13.
- PLANT BELOW GROUND CROPS: 22, 23.
- HARVEST ABOVE GROUND CROPS: 17, 18.
- HARVEST BELOW GROUND CROPS: 27, 28.
- PRUNE TO ENCOURAGE GROWTH: 14 - 16.
- PRUNE TO DISCOURAGE GROWTH: 14 - 26.
- DESTROY PESTS AND WEEDS: 14 - 16.
- CUT HAY: 14 - 16.
- FISHING: 4 - 19.

**Other important November dates:**

- ALL SAINTS DAY: 1.
- ELECTION DAY: 2.
- WILL ROGER'S DAY: 4.
- DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS: 7.
- US MARINE CORP BIRTHDAY: 10.
- VETERAN'S DAY: 11.
- NATIONAL CHILD'S DAY: 20.
- THANKSGIVING: 25.

**NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL JEWELRY MONTH!**

You know what to do... you don't need me to tell you.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!**

If your birthday was in OCTOBER... sorry I omitted this last month IDK what happened there... Your BIRTHSTONE IS OPAL for HOPE and your BIRTHFLOWER is CALENDULA for CONSTANCY. The Calendula (Pot Marigold) historically stands for "Winning Grace" and is also cited to represent sorrow or sympathy. They are sometimes referred to as Summer's Bride because the blooms follow the path of the sun through the sky. They are colorful and an easy to grow annual. It is effortless to start them from seed and they provide a bright yellow or orange spot in the garden throughout the summer.

If your birthday is in NOVEMBER, your BIRTHSTONE is TOPAZ for FIDELITY and your BIRTHFLOWER is CHRYSANTHUM for LOVELINESS. Chrysanthemum stands for compassion, friendship, and secret love. They come in an assortment of colors from white to yellow to deep red. Also known as "Mums", these perennials are the classic fall blooming flower. Their cherry colors and full daisy-like blooms will persist through freezing temperatures. They are the national flower of Japan and symbolize the Japanese Emperor.

**LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE**

*LAWN & TURF:*

- Fertilize cool-season grasses like fescue with 1 lb. nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft.
- Continue to mow fescue as needed at 2 inches and water during dry conditions.
- Control broadleaf winter weeds with a pre-emergent.
- Keep falling leaves off fescue to avoid damage to the foliage.

#### ***FRUITS & NUTS:***

- Delay pruning fruit trees until next February or March before bud breaks.
- Harvest pecans and walnuts immediately to eliminate deterioration of the kernel.

#### ***GENERAL LANDSCAPE:***

- Prune deciduous trees in early part of winter. Prune only for structural and safety purposes.
- Apply dormant oil for scale infested trees and shrubs before temperatures fall below 40 degrees. Follow label directions.
- Continue to plant balled, bur lapped, and containerized trees.
- Watch for arborvitae aphids, which tolerate cooler temperatures in evergreen shrubs.
- Tulips can still be planted successfully through the middle of November.
- Leave foliage on asparagus, mums, and other perennials to help insulate crowns from harsh winter conditions.
- Bulbs like hyacinth, narcissus, and tulips can be potted in containers for indoor forcing.
- Left over garden seeds can be stored in an airtight container in the refrigerator or freezer until next planting season. Discard seeds over 3 years old.
- Gather and shred leaves to compost and use as mulch or till into garden plots.
- Clean and store garden and landscape tools. Coat with a light application of oil to prevent rusting. Drain fuel tanks, irrigation lines and hoses. Bring hoses indoors.

## **AUTUMN**

As you pursue these pages, the warm buzz of Summer has given away to the crisp air and orange and red hues of AUTUMN, and another busy and bountiful growing season is ending. School is in full session, another college football season has kicked off, and for half the country, winter will be here before you know it. I suppose that merits a quick moment of gracious reflection, and a moment to catch our breath. What a year it has been in our little corner of the AG world!

### ***I am GRATEFUL For AUTUMN...***

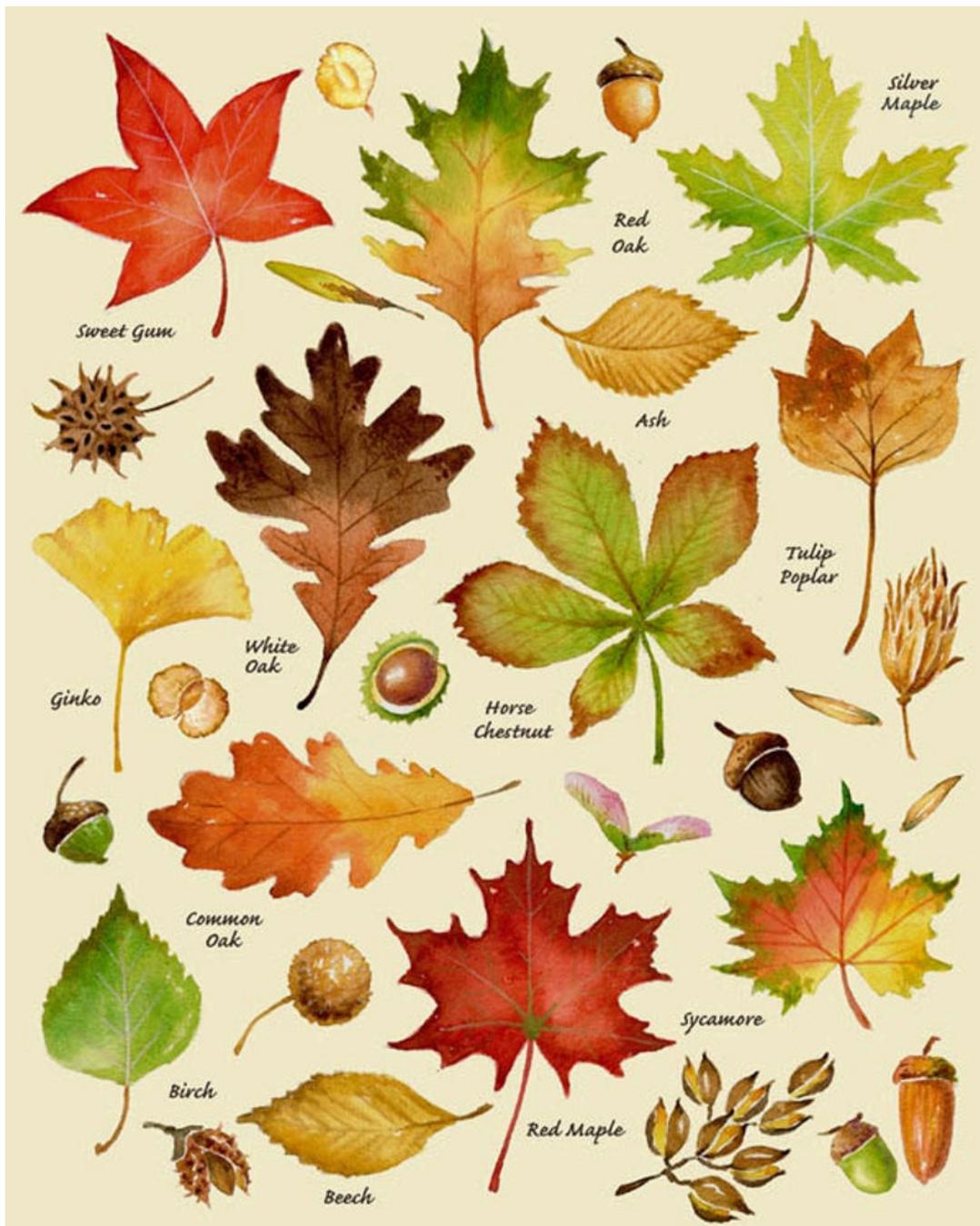
Autumn is my favorite time of the year. With all the beautiful colors of the trees, it signals that a change is ahead. The festivals celebrate the changing of the season and it means eating more comfort foods like soups... I love soup! After a long hot summer, it starts to cool slightly, which means chilly mornings with warm afternoons. Delicious autumn fruits and vegetables can be enjoyed, and the garden becomes easier to manage. In autumn, I get the best of summer and winter, all in one day. Mother Nature reminds us to start slowing down. The beautiful crisp air is refreshing and makes me feel alive. There are gorgeous leaves everywhere in yellows, oranges, browns, and reds that are so much fun to play in! Sleeping becomes more enjoyable with the cooler nights. Autumn signals a time to shed the old and allows us to look forward to a time of rest.

Take time now and enjoy the beauty of Autumn. And if you are smart, you'll be getting ready for the winter weather ahead. I hate to be the bearer of bad news... BUT... My friends at the National Weather Center in Norman tell me to prepare for a winter just like last year's. The climate change has remained the same as last year... GET PREPARED PEOPLE! Winter may be hard again this year.

## **WHY DO LEAVES CHANGE COLOR?**

This year we've learned that almost nothing is guaranteed in life. And yet, as summer turns to autumn, one thing that IS certain is that leaves will be changing color. Why do leaves change color?

And how do the leaves decide which fiery color to turn? Ed Sharron, a science communication specialist with the National Park Services, explains the science behind the beautiful colors of fall.



### **Why do leaves turn red?**

### **Why don't ALL leaves turn red?**

Trees that don't receive as much sunlight will reveal the orange, yellow and brown colors, caused by the carotenoid and xanthophyll pigments that are already present in the leaves, but are hidden under the green until the chlorophyll breaks down.

## **How do leaves know when to call it quits?**

The primary signal to trees is the length of day. Shorter days tell a tree it's time to stop photosynthesizing – the process by which sunlight and water combine to make food for the tree – and shut down for the winter.

## **Why do they turn spectacular colors before they fall off?**

When photosynthesis shuts down, the chlorophyll in leaves that makes them appear green breaks down. What colors come next depend on the following:

- Relatively warm sunny days promote the creation of sugar within the leaves.
- Relatively cold, but not freezing, nights act as a trigger, causing the tree to begin to slowly create a protective layer of corky cells called the “abscission layer” between a leaf’s stem and branch, which traps some of the sugars within the leaf.
- Sugars that escape being trapped in the leaf are stored in the tree trunk and roots and act as a kind of natural antifreeze that protects deciduous trees during winter.

## **Why do some leaves not change color and fall off?**

Trees that hold onto their leaves year-round – modified leaves called “needles” – are evergreens like Pine, Hemlock, Spruce, and Fir. They have evolved to potentially photosynthesize year-round, though at a much slower rate in the cold months, and only on relatively warmer winter days.

## **How will climate change affect Fall foliage?**

As a result of a warming climate and shifting precipitation patterns, the fall foliage season as we know it is likely to change in the coming years and decades. Drought and extended warmth into fall will likely result in duller colors and possibly the leaves just turning brown and falling off before they change colors.

## **BIRD FEEDING TIPS:**

### *HOLD ONTO GOURDS & PUMPKINS!!!*

- After Halloween those porch decorations, gourds, and pumpkins, can feed the wildlife.
- Cut a hole in each pumpkin and set under a feeder. Squirrels and other creatures enjoy the flesh, and birds pick at the seeds inside!
- When cooking Autumn dinners, save squash seeds – they’re an excellent source of protein for birds. Just leave the seeds on a tray to dry for a day or two. In summer, try the same thing with melon seeds.

## **HOW OLD IS OLD?**

NEWS FLASH... 65 YEARS IS STILL YOUNG! The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared that 65 years old is still considered young! Before, based on the Friendly Societies Act (1875) in Britain, old was defined by age of 50. The UN has not adopted a standard criterion but lately 60 years old was referred as the border age to the world “old”. However, the health organization has done new research recently. The new defined criterion divides human age is as follows:

- 0 – 17: Underage
- 18 – 65: Youth or Young People
- 66 – 79: Middle-aged
- 80 – 99: Elderly or Senior
- 100+: Long-lived Elderly

## **COMMON GARDENING TERMS**

We have covered A-F in previous months... let's keep going!

- **GERMINATION:** The moment when a seed begins to grow.
- **GMO:** Stands for Genetically Modified Organism. Commonly means genetically engineered, indicating that the variety was manipulated at the gene level in a laboratory.
- **GYNOECIOUS:** A plant with only pollen-accepting flowers. A pollinator plant with pollen-producing flowers required for fruit production. These varieties are generally very productive and fast to mature.
- **HARDENING OFF:** The 7 to 10-day process of acclimating plants started indoors to outdoor conditions.
- **HEAT TOLERANCE:** The ability to resist heat-triggered issues like poor pollination, bitterness, premature flowering, and lack of fruit-set.
- **HEIRLOOM:** Open pollinated varieties over 50 years old are heirloom.
- **HYBRID:** Modern F1 (filial 1) type hybrid. Two specific parent varieties are bred to achieve a first-generation hybrid offspring. F1 hybrids are not open pollinated. Traditionally, "hybrid" indicates any variety that had been made by cross-pollinating, even if that was completed by hand or insect.
- **INDETERMINATE:** Describes tomato varieties that continue to grow and produce tomatoes all season until first frost: therefore, you can find tomatoes at all stages on the plant at one time. Also called "pole" tomatoes because supports are helpful in guiding plants that can easily reach 6' or more.

## TIME TO TREAT TREES & SHRUBS

Nip the creepy crawlies in the bud! Pests will be back for your trees and shrubs this Spring and Summer. Protect them now with an application of dormant oil spray to control a wide range of critters, such as: Scale, Mites, Fruit Tree Rollers, Pear Psylla, Fall Army Worms, and Whiteflies. Using a horticultural oil will also give protection from Adelgids, Aphids, Leaf Hoppers, Mealybugs, Immature Plant Bugs, and Sawfly Larvae. It kills all stages of insects, including eggs.

## HAVE YOU PLANTED YOUR SPRING FLOWERING BULBS?

NOW IS THE TIME! We still have a great selection of Spring blooming bulbs for Fall planting. The rule of thumb in bulb buying is... the bigger the bulb, the bigger the bloom! Come see how big our bulbs are! I love the anticipation as I look out my window and see the snow covering my spring bulb garden. I know that very soon the plants will emerge and begin to bloom, even as the snow is still on the ground! Tulips, Daffodils, Crocus, Iris, Allium, and Bare-Naked Ladies... *we've got 'em all!*

## Get a jump on Spring with FALL SOWN FLOWERS

You can sow both perennial and many annual flowers in the Fall. Some perennials germinate best when stratified (exposed to a cold, moist period), which will naturally occur with Fall sowing. Some annual flower seeds can survive a cold, moist Winter, and germinate quickly in the Spring for earlier flowers than if started indoors, in spring. Whichever you sow this Fall, both lead to hassle-free color come next growing season.

## PERENNIALS... 4 REASONS TO SOW IN THE FALL

1. **Hassle-free stratification:** Some perennial seeds need stratification, periods of cold temperatures combined with moisture, (like that from snow and rain during winter) to break a natural dormancy, allowing them to germinate. Take advantage of nature's process by sowing in the Fall.

2. **Earlier blooms and larger plants:** Perennials live for more than two years and can take several years to get to their mature size. By sowing perennial seeds in the Fall, the plants will be more mature the following year compared to those sown in the Spring. Sowing perennial seeds in the Fall allows many types to flower their first growing season.
3. **Care-free moisture management:** Most regions have winter rain and/or snow, providing essential moisture without you having to lift a finger. Cool weather also reduces the need to water as frequently, when rain and/or snow is not adequate.
4. **Control weeds with ease:** Cool weather slows weed germination and growth, making your nicely prepped and sown garden area easier to maintain in the upcoming season.

#### *TIPS FOR PERENNIAL SUCCESS:*

- Sow perennials that DO NOT NEED stratification at least 8–10 weeks before your average first fall frost. This allows time for the seed to germinate, and plants to establish a root system large enough to survive the Winter.
- Sow perennials that NEED stratification after a hard, killing frost. This ensures that they will not sprout until the following Spring.
- MARK THE SPOT. Label the area of sown seeds with garden stakes. Be sure to water late-summer and fall-sown perennial seeds during dry spells in winter, just as you do your trees.
- Forget-Me-Nots, Hyssop, Lavender, Russell Lupine Blend, Milkweed, Penstemon, Bluebonnet, and Yarrow are some varieties that BENEFIT from stratification.

### **ANNUALS... 3 REASONS TO SOW IN THE FALL**

1. **Earlier blooms:** Select annuals will emerge as soon as Mother Nature cooperates, allowing the plants to germinate and bloom earlier than those spring-sown annuals.
2. **Robust plants:** Direct sowing, when possible, results in the most robust plants. When seeds are started indoors, they are a bit spoiled from even, moderate temperatures, and refined growing mediums. Transplanting usually results in some transplant shock while new root growth navigates native soil, and plants get used to the temperature swings in their new home.
3. **Ease:** Skip the indoor lighting, potting, and care that comes from growing transplants by direct sowing. Some gardeners find they have more time in the fall, rather than spring, so sow a little extra to enjoy next year.

#### *TIPS FOR ANNUAL SUCCESS:*

- If you live in an area with frost and snow, sow the seeds AFTER a killing freeze, but BEFORE snow (late October or early November in most areas). You can also sow in late winter, between snows. The snow helps bury seeds and insulates them, helping to retain moisture.
- Mixing a little sand with the seeds not only helps space seeds more evenly, but also gives you a better visual aid of where you sowed in case you need to water during dry spells in winter.
- MARK THE SPOT. Don't forget to mark what and where you sowed with some handy garden stakes, so you don't accidentally weed-out emerging flowers!
- Check out these annuals you can successfully sow in the fall... Bachelor Buttons, Bluebonnets, Larkspur, Love-In-A-Mist, Lupine, and Poppies.

### **MORE VERY IMPORTANT NOVEMBER DATES**

*Here are other dates in November you knew nothing about:*

- November 1... MEN MAKE DINNER DAY
- November 3... BOOT LOVER DAY

- November 8... COOK SOMETHING BOLD DAY
- November 13... KINDNESS DAY
- November 19... HAVE A BAD-DAY DAY
- November 23... YOU'RE WELCOME DAY
- November 28... FRENCH TOAST DAY

**We have come to the end of another beautiful month. Until next time... Give Thanks for all you have!**

**Call me with any questions you might have at (405) 262-3456.**

**And as always, be sure to like and follow us on Facebook and follow our Instagram (@rossseedcompany)!**

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