

September Checklist

Water as needed. Even though weather will be cooler, plants still need adequate moisture. If the fall is dry, water well. Otherwise, plants might go into winter dehydrated and stressed, making them more likely to die out by spring.



Keep weeding. Late summer and early fall are when many of the worst weeds go to seed. Let them go now, and they'll scatter thousands of seeds all over your garden. Basic cleanup in late summer and fall will prevent far more cleanup and weeding come spring. Now is the perfect time to broadcast Hi Yield Ornamental Weed & Grass Stopper with Dimension over beds to help suppress weeds this winter.

Pitch 'em. If any annuals are struggling this late in the season, just pull them up and put them in the compost heap. If a perennial is looking shot, cut it off at ground level and discard the foliage.

Start raking. Don't worry about leaves that collect around shrubs and perennial plantings--they'll actually protect your plants. But don't allow leaves to hang out for more than a few days on lawns. They suffocate the grass.

Stock up on bulbs. October is the ideal planting time for bulbs in the Midwest, but supplies can go fast. Buy bulbs when you see them and keep in a cool, dry place (65° F or under, if possible) until planting time. Be sure to check out our great selection of spring blooming Netherland Bulbs.

Brighten your garden with mums. Buy them now in bloom. Garden mums, which are more wild-looking but will come back again next year, they are also good for planting in the ground for a permanent display.

Consider cool-season annuals such as flowering kale, cabbage & pansies. They will brighten bare spots and outdoor containers for several weeks to come.



Especially in the southern half of the Midwest, fall is a great time to **divide and plant most perennials and roses.** Plant trees and shrubs throughout

the entire Midwest—just be sure to keep well-watered if the fall is dry.

Pick vegetables often and small to avoid tough or bitter produce.

Tomatoes should be harvested when about three-quarters ripe. At that point, they are no longer taking nourishment from the plant. Allow them to continue to ripen indoors. If plants have blight remove & discard them into the trash, do not place in compost bin. Then, spray your garden down with Bonide Mancozeb Fungicide to help kill any remaining spores so this does not reoccur next year.



Cut back and harvest herbs before the first frost. Put in jars of water, like cut flowers, and cover with a plastic bag. Change water every few days. They'll keep for weeks this way.

Don't have a compost heap? Start one! It can be as simple as a length of chicken wire, wrapped into an oval or square and held loosely in place with a few long wooden stakes. You can get away with just one, but with most gardens, three works better--each in a different stage of decomposition. In large gardens, you might have as many as a half dozen.

Keep an eye out for frost. In the northernmost Midwest, the first frost can come as soon as the last week of September. However, for the rest of the Midwest, it tends to be mid-to late October. Cover annuals and other tender plants for the first few frosts to get as much enjoyment of your plants as possible!

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