

Alabama Gardener's Calendar

September

► Learn—month by month—the necessary gardening activities for lawns and shrubs, annuals and perennials, fruit and nut trees, and bulbs, roots, and tubers. Included is a timeline for activities such as soil testing, planting, pruning, fertilizing, pruning, mulching, indoor plantings—from cauliflower to okra, from camellias to dahlias to heirloom roses.

Fruits and Nuts

- New catalogs will be arriving soon.
- Start plans for future selection and plantings.
- Take soil test for new planting areas.
- Fertilize established strawberry plantings.

Shrubs

- Study landscape to determine plant needs.
- Check early camellia varieties for damage caused by insects and disease.
- Replace landscape plants as needed that have severe damage caused by insects, disease, or freezes.
- After fall growth is completed, spray all shrubs with a fungicide.

Lawns

- Mow often (5 to 10 days) to remove just 1/3 the grass height at each mowing.
- If daytime temperatures are consistently cooler than 80 degrees F, apply fire ant bait. Read the label carefully for best control.
- If winter or spring weeds were a concern this year, apply preemergent herbicides.
- Reseed tall fescue lawns and fertilize at 1 pound slow-release nitrogen per 1,000 square feet.

Roses

- Protect fall crops of blossoms from aphids and thrips.
- Keep plants healthy.



Annuals and Perennials

- Plant perennials and biennials. This is the last planting time for these.
- Divide old clumps of perennials.
- Plant peonies.

Bulbs

- Plant spring-flowering bulbs late this month in north Alabama.
- Delay planting in south Alabama.

Miscellaneous

- Clean up infestations of insects on azaleas, camellias, boxwoods, gardenias, hollies, etc.
- If oil spray is needed, don't use in freezing weather.
- Build a compost bin or box; leaves will be falling soon.
- Monitor house plants for insects and diseases before moving them indoors. Treat as needed to prevent carrying unwanted pest indoors.

Vegetable Seeds

- **South:** Plant beets, carrots, Brussels sprouts, collards, kale, lettuce, mustard, onion seeds, radishes, spinach, Swiss chard, parsley, and turnips.
- **Central and North:** Continue planting carrots, collards, kale, lettuce, mustard, onion seeds, parsley, radishes, spinach, Swiss chard, and turnips.

Vegetable Transplants

- **Whole state:** Continue planting cole crops, collards, kale, lettuce, mustard, and spinach transplants, and onion sets.
- **South:** Plant celery transplants.

Questions?

Call the Master Gardener Helpline at (877) 252-4769. A Master Gardener Extension volunteer is waiting to answer your call.



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