

Alabama
Gardener's
Calendar

October

► **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

- Planting season for strawberries starts in south Alabama.
- Clean up orchard area.
- Remove broken limbs, old fruit, and debris from orchard floor.

Shrubs

- Plant new trees and shrubs in the landscape
- Water when needed.
- Note varieties of camellias and other landscape plants in bloom.
- Start mulching all shrubs that do not have a mulch.

Lawns

- Perform a soil test to determine if limestone is recommended and apply anytime this fall.
- If winter or spring weeds were a concern this year, apply preemergent herbicides.
- Fertilize fescue lawns at 1 pound slow-release nitrogen per 1,000 square feet.
- As fall rain returns, monitor for fungal disease in fescue.

Roses

- Continue insect and disease control practices.
- New rose catalogs will be coming in.
- Study closely; add some new varieties to your list.

**Annuals and Perennials**

- Visit flower shows and gardens.
- List desirable varieties of mums.
- Clean up flower beds immediately after first killing frost. Plant half-hardy annuals, such as snapdragons.

Bulbs

- Plant tulip, hyacinth, daffodil, crocus, Dutch iris, anemone, and ranunculus.
- Watch planting depth. Dig caladiums; clean and store in a warm place.

Miscellaneous

- Renew mulch around shrubs and rose beds.
- Loosen mulches that have packed down.
- Spray with oils before freezing weather to kill scale, mites, etc.
- Remove all dead stems and trash from flower beds.
- Transplant into small pots any cuttings taken earlier.

Vegetable Seeds

- **South:** This is the last fall month to plant the winter garden. Plant carrots, collards, kale, mustard, onion seeds, radishes, spinach, and turnips. Plant Swiss chard in early October.
- **Central and South:** Continue planting winter-hardy crops such as beets, carrots, collards, kale, parsley, and spinach.
- **North:** Plant onion seeds and radishes in early October.

Vegetable Transplants

- **Whole state:** Continue planting winter-hardy transplants.
- Soil test garden soil and apply limestone as recommended anytime this fall.



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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