

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for October

By Cynthia Brian

"Delicious autumn! My very soul is wedded to it, and if I were a bird I would fly about the earth seeking the successive autumns." – George Elliot



A plethora of blanket flowers and daisies adorn the autumn landscape. Photos Cynthia Brian

Fall is back! Our local trees are changing their coats from various colors of green to yellow, orange, red, gold, and brown. The weather is still warm during the day with cooler nights, offering gardeners the perfect opportunity to purchase and plant their favorite autumn trees, shrubs, and natives from well-stocked nurseries. As children and teens prepare costumes for Halloween, pumpkin patches welcome family exploration. Our vegetable gardens take their final bow and it's time to prepare the soil for winter crops. Garlic, onions, and cool season greens including lettuce, spinach, chard, and mustard along with beets, turnips, parsnips, and other root vegetables are ready to be planted. It's delicious autumn – and don't you just wish you *were* a bird?

- **PRUNE** vines, summer perennials, berry canes, and cut back out-of-bound ground covers.
- **AERATE** lawns and fertilize. Re-seed grass or install sod.
- **PLANT** winter annuals in October as the sun is still warming our days. Selections include cinerarias, primroses, violas, pansies, cyclamen, and ornamental cabbage.
- **ADD** an architectural texture to your landscape with the drought tolerant grasses such as Mexican Feather Grass, Red or White Fountain Grass, and Rattlesnake Grass.
- **CONTROL** snails and slugs with bowls of beer, Slugo, or Deadline.
- **EXTEND** the life of your Jack O'Lanterns by coating the cut sides with petroleum jelly.

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RISK ASSESSMENT

Some level of risk must be accepted to experience the benefits that the tree provides. Fortunately, tree failure is an infrequent occurrence. Serious damage, injury, or death from tree failure is rare. Tree failures during normal weather conditions are sometimes predictable and preventable. Decisions on whether a tree inspection is required or what level of assessment is appropriate should be made by an arborist with the consideration for what is a reasonable and proportional to the specific condition and situations. Have an arborist from Advance Tree Service take the risk away by assessing your trees health today. So don't wait until it's too late, call your local Arborist at Advance Tree Service and Landscaping to help you assess your risk today.

Advance Tree Service

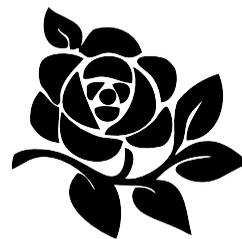
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