

SEPTEMBER



"I would rather sit on a pumpkin, and have it all to myself, than be crowded on a velvet cushion." Henry Thoreau

How to garden in the Fall:

Garden for next year – look for those great end of the summer sales on perennials, bulbs, garden tools and supplies. Divide spring bulbs, irises, lilies and spread in other areas to have a beautiful showing of flowers in the spring. Plant quick growing vegetables such as radishes, bush beans, lettuce, broccoli, kale. You will have a large crop to enjoy before the temperatures dip below freezing.

Fertilizing in the Fall will greatly help your spring gardening efforts. These energy macro-nutrients help to stave off injury, disease and help with spring growth.



What is it? Rust, *Puccinia stroformis* and *P. graminis*, is one of the easiest lawn diseases to detect. It hits the lawns when the heat of the summer, mostly in July, slows grass growth. The orange red spores cling to lawn mower wheels and shoes. If possible cut the grass when it is dry. Once cooler weather and rain arrive, the grass will grow again and the rust will be history. Fungicides applied in early July will reduce the rust.

- Pluck marigold (or other annual flowers) seeds for next year.
- Pinch off tomato, cucumber and/or pepper flowers to direct the energy to the fruits on the stems.
- Reduce watering of perennials, trees, and shrubs to allow them to harden-off for the winter.
- Take cuttings of geraniums, fuchsias, and begonias and root them in damp perlite to establish roots. By the time they grow into a sizable plant it will be time to plant them in the spring.
- Order spring-blooming flower bulbs and garlic to plant in September or before freezing temperatures.
- Remove rose leaves infected with black spot and throw them in the garbage or burn them.
- Sow seeds of poppies, bachelor's buttons, and sweet William where you want them to bloom next spring.
- Take photos and make notes for next year's landscape.
- Pluck day lily bloomed out stems and cut back salvia for second blooms.

> Power spray your house siding and/or stained sidewalk. Make the entrance of your house as pretty as the inside.

What does it mean? Biochar is a name for charcoal when it is used for particular purposes, especially as a soil amendment. Independently, biochar can increase soil fertility and provide protection against some foliar and soil-borne diseases. Biochar is a stable solid, rich in carbon and can endure in soil for thousands of years. Pre-Columbian Amazonians are believed to have used biochar to enhance soil productivity. They produced it by smoldering agricultural waste (i.e., covering burning biomass with soil) in pits or trenches. The term "biochar" was coined by Peter L. Read (Oxford University) to describe charcoal used as a soil improvement. (From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.)



Pick your own apples at Heinz Orchard in Green Oaks, (next to Libertyville). <http://www.heinzorchard.com/>

NEW – From our readers:

I had a bunch of pansies in a container (an old iron wood stove by the door) in April and May. By June they were all leggy and dragging, so I dug them out to replace with something else, but instead of discarding them on the compost heap, I just threw them on the ground next to the door and remembered to water them now and then, nothing more. And for some reason they liked the abuse and have been blooming like crazy all summer. Pansies in August -- who knew? Wendy G.

My green pepper growing outside turned red. This often happens so I looked up the reason. I had no idea a green pepper is an immature red pepper and once it ripens, the green will turn to red, yellow or orange. Well, who knew? Kim M.

I sprayed the patio furniture cushions with water proofing and discovered that the squirrels did not like the odor. For years I have been trying to find a way to keep the squirrels off the cushions and making their business on them. Now I know how. Larry S.