



Garden Guide

Things to do this month

Plant peonies now, but make sure the crowns are buried only 1½–2 inches below ground level. Planting them deeper than two inches may keep them from blooming.

Root cuttings from annual bedding plants such as begonias, coleus, geraniums and impatiens can be overwintered in a sunny window and provide plants for next year's garden.

Before the first frost, dig up caladiums. Allow them to dry and store them in a dry place for the winter.

Perennial phlox can be divided about every third or fourth year. Divide big clumps of perennial phlox into thirds. Early fall or early spring are the best times to plant or transplant them.

Divide lily-of-the-valley.

Select accent plants for your landscape that will provide autumn colors. Trees that have red fall color are flowering dogwood, red maple, sugar maple, Norway maple, red oak and scarlet oak. Shrubs with red fall foliage include sumac, viburnum, winged euonymus and barberry.

Allow plants to finish the summer growth cycle in a normal manner. Never encourage growth with heavy applications of fertilizer or excessive pruning at this time. Plants will delay their dormancy process that has already begun in anticipation of winter. New growth can be injured by an early freeze.

Tree wound paints used after pruning are no longer recommended as they can slow healing and may promote decay.

If pesky seedlings of woody plants, such as elm, mulberry, hackberry or maple are found growing in your yard, remove them as soon as possible. If left too long, they will take over gardens and other landscape plantings.

Rake up leaves, twigs and fruit from crabapple trees and dispose of them in the trash to help control apple scab disease.

Water newly planted trees and shrubs to provide sufficient moisture and prevent winter damage. Add a two-inch layer of an organic mulch such as shredded bark around the base of plants to retain soil moisture and regulate soil temperature.

Wood ashes contain phosphorous, potassium and calcium. It can be placed on vegetable gardens and flower beds.

Save seeds from favorite flowers such as marigolds by allowing the flower heads to mature. Lay seeds on newspaper and turn them often to dry. Store the dry seeds in glass jars or envelopes in a cool, dry, dark place.

Hot peppers will keep best if stored after they are dry. Thread the peppers on a string to dry. Hang in a cool, dry place.

Pot up chives, parsley and other herbs to extend the growing season in the house.

Pears should be picked at the hard-ripe stage and allowed to finish ripening off the tree. The base color of yellow pears should change from green to yellow as the fruit approaches maturity.

Be sure to keep strawberry beds weed-free. Every weed you pull now will help make weeding much easier next spring.

Do not wait for frost warnings to move your plants indoors. Temperatures of 45° F or lower can damage many tropical house plants.

Collect okra seed pods, gourds, sumac seed heads, rose hips and other suitable materials for dried arrangements. Air dry these materials in a dark, cool location.

Fall is a good time for improving your garden soil. Add manure, compost and leaves to increase the organic matter content. (MJF)

Good, Low-Maintenance Trees to Plant

After the rough, stormy spring and summer we just had, many of us were forced to remove damaged trees. The next task is to select a tree to replace the one you lost. When replacing those unsalvageable trees, you may want to consider a low-maintenance tree. These are trees that need minimal pruning, have minor insect or disease problems, have a slower growth rate and add value to your landscape.

Consider selecting one of the trees on this list. After these trees become established, they will beautify your landscape for years to come. (MJF)



Name	Mature Height (Ft.)	Crown Spread (Ft.)	Growth Rate	Mature Form	Fall Color
Ginkgo	40-60	30-40	slow	oval	yellow
Goldenrain Tree	20-25	25-30	slow	round	brown
Hackberry	50-70	30-40	slow	vase	yellow
Maple, Norway	40-50	30-40	medium	oval to round	yellow to orange
Maple, Sugar	50-70	40-60	slow	oval to round	yellow to red
Maple, Amur	15-20	10-15	medium	round	scarlet
Maple, Tatarian	15-20	15-20	medium-slow	round	yellow-red
Oak, Bur	50-70	50-70	slow	oval	yellow-brown
Oak, White	50-70	30-50	slow	round	purplish
Oak, Swamp White	40-60	20-40	medium	oval	yellow-brown
Oak, Shingle	50-60	50-60	medium-slow	round	yellow to red
Spruce, Colorado	30-60	10-20	medium-slow	pyramid	
Spruce, White	40-60	10-20	medium	pyramid	
Douglas-fir	40-80	12-20	medium	pyramid	
Hornbeam, European	40-60	30-40	medium-slow	oval	yellow
Magnolia, Star	15-20	10-15	slow	oval to round	yellow to bronze
Smoketree, Common	10-15	10-15	medium	round	red-purple
Japanese Tree Lilac	20-25	15-25	medium	vase	green
Amur Cork Tree	20-30	15-25	medium	round	yellow-brown
American Hophornbeam	25-40	25-30	slow	oval	yellow
Amur Maackia	20-30	20-30	slow	round	green
Maple, Black	50-70	40-50	slow	round	yellow
Witchhazel, Common	15-30	20-25	medium	oval	yellow
Magnolia, Saucer	20-30	20-30	medium	round	yellow-brown

Herbal Festival

Join the Doole family and Pioneers Park Nature Center for a rededication of the renovated Louise Evans Doole Herb Garden

Saturday, Sept. 11
9:30 a.m.–3 p.m., \$5/person

Festivities include:

Betsy Williams
author, herb grower and floral designer from 'The Proper Season,' Andover, MA
Presentation:
"Developing Theme Gardens"
an Herbal Craft Workshop (materials fee extra)

also available:
Tours of the Renovated Herb Garden
Tasting Table
Mini-workshops
Informational booths

Presented in cooperation with the Nebraska Herbal Society. Call 441-7895 for more information.



Aster Yellows on Purple Coneflower

Purple coneflower can suffer from a common disease called aster yellows. Aster yellows causes chlorosis or yellowing of the plant, stunting, irregular growth and distortion of the flower head. This unusual growth is often misdiagnosed as herbicide damage. Aster yellows is a disease carried from plant to plant by insects and survives winter in infected plant material.

To manage aster yellows, all infected plants should be removed from the garden and destroyed. There are no chemi-



Aster yellows on coneflowers (normal flowers shown at left) causes yellowing of the plant and distortion of the flower head (right).

cal treatments available for aster yellows. Since the disease can also survive in neighboring

weeds, it is important to maintain good weed control in and around your garden. (MJF)