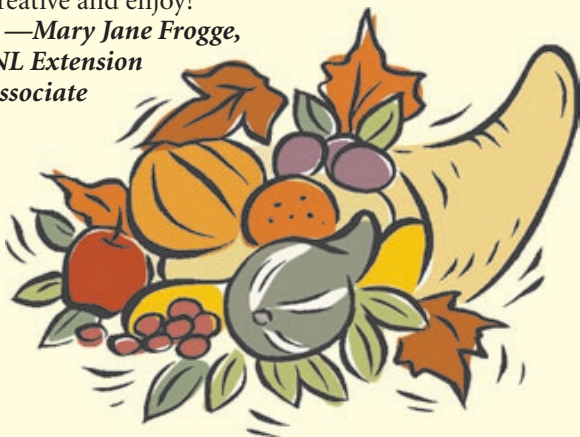


## Make a Cornucopia from the Garden

Decorate for the fall season with a cornucopia of materials collected from your garden and landscape. Start with a horn shaped basket that is available at most craft stores. From the garden, collect pumpkins, winter squash, ornamental corn and gourds. From the orchard, collect apples and pears. From the landscape, collect pine cones, acorns, ornamental grasses, tree and shrub leaves with fall color. Perennial plants with unique or colorful pods include Oriental poppy and Chinese lanterns.

Enjoy your display through the fall, then when the snow flies, turn it into a winter decoration. Collect greenery from pines, spruce, arborvitae, junipers and fir trees. Add red apples and cranberries. Fancy up the pine cones by dipping them in white, silver and gold paint. Have fun, be creative and enjoy!

—Mary Jane Frogge,  
UNL Extension Associate



## 10 Tips For Welcoming Wildlife Into Your Landscape



**Be a Happy Homemaker**—Provide nesting boxes for cavity-nesting birds and roosting boxes for bats.

**Cook Up Something Special**—Add plants to your landscape that provide food (fruits, nuts, berries) and cover (shrubs, evergreens, etc.) for wildlife.

**Be Small Minded**—Do not forget the butterflies, bees and other important pollinators. Add flowering plants that will attract and feed the little ones.

**Get It Wet**—Adding a small backyard pond will provide water for birds and other wildlife.

**Stop the Invasion**—Remove invasive plant species. They threaten food and habitat producing native plants.

**Let Them Eat Bugs**—Birds, bats and beneficial insects eat insect pests and enhance ecological balance. Do not kill them.

**Bridge the Gaps**—Connect “wild” areas together to create habitat corridors for wildlife cover and travel.

**Chaperone the Party**—If guests such as deer, skunks, rats, etc., become a problem, get help from local wildlife agencies or your extension office.

**Go Native**—Preserve native vegetation through sensitive site planning. Native plants are adapted to local conditions and supply food to wildlife.

**Enjoy Your Work**—Place bird feeders, birdbaths and other wildlife features where you can easily observe the wild visitors to your yard.



This information was adapted from the Environmental Guidelines for Responsible Lawn Care and Landscaping as developed by the members of the Lawns and Environment Initiative (L&E). To learn more about the development of the Environmental Guidelines for Responsible Lawn Care and Landscaping and the L&E Initiative go to [www.lawnsandenvironment.org](http://www.lawnsandenvironment.org)

Photos by Soni Cochran and Vicki Jedlicka, UNL Extension in Lancaster County



## Garden Guide THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH

By Mary Jane Frogge, UNL Extension Associate

Fall is the time to control broadleaf weeds in the lawn, such as white clover, dandelion and ground ivy.

Dig and bring in cannas, dahlias and gladiolus. Dry, clean and store in a cool location free from frost.

Cut down stems and foliage of herbaceous perennials after two or three hard frosts and when leaves begin to brown.

After several hard frosts add mulch to your perennial flower garden. A one-inch layer of straw or chopped leaves will help conserve soil moisture and protect the root system.

When deciding on new trees or shrubs to plant around your home, remember to select varieties that will fit the location when they are at their mature height. This will greatly reduce pruning and other maintenance in the future.

Pick bagworms from evergreen shrubs. This will eliminate the spring hatch from over wintered eggs.

Remove leaves from lawn to reduce lawn problems. Compost or shred and use them for mulch.

Make a note of any particularly productive or unsatisfactory varieties of vegetables you planted this year. Such information can be very useful when planning next years garden.

Remove any diseased or insect infested plant material from your garden, it may harbor over wintering stages of disease or insect pests. If you leave this plant material in your garden, you are leaving diseases and insects which will begin to reproduce again next spring and add to next years pest problem.

Cure pumpkins, butternut and hubbard squash at temperatures between 70 to 80 degrees F for two or three weeks immediately after harvest. After curing, store them in a dry place at 55 to 60 degrees F.

Use dried herbs to make fragrant wreaths and dried flower arrangements.

Clean up the orchard and small fruit plantings. Sanitation is essential for good maintenance. Dried fruits or mummies carry disease organisms through the winter to attack next years crop.

Nut trees are a fine addition to the home landscape. They may accent the house, provide shade in the summer and even become a food source.

Christmas cactus need special care now to get its beautiful flowers this December. Buds will form at 50 to 60 degrees F or if the plant is exposed to at least 13 hours of complete darkness each night.

Fall is an excellent time for taking soil samples in your lawn and garden. Soil tests will measure the pH of the soil, organic matter content and the levels of some of the major elements required for plant growth, such as phosphorus and potassium.

## Time to Plant Bulbs

Mary Jane Frogge  
UNL Extension Associate

Early October is the perfect time to plant hardy bulbs such as daffodils and tulips. Good quality bulbs produce good blooms and usually the larger the bulb, the better it will bloom. Beware of bargain bulbs that are often too small to bloom the first season. Bulbs should be firm, heavy and in good condition. The papery skin should be smooth, of good color and free from injury.

Work soil 8–10 inches deep. Loose soil is important for good root development. Plant hyacinths and tulips 6 inches deep. Daffodils 6–8 inches deep. Smaller bulbs, like crocus and

squill are planted shallower, 3–4 inches deep.

Large bulbs should be spaced 4–6 inches apart; small bulbs 1–2 inches. For a greater effect in the garden, plant in clumps or irregular masses rather than individually.

Once planted, replace the soil and then water. If fall and early winter weather is dry, water as needed to promote good root development. Mulch the area 2 inches with wood bark.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

UNL Extension NebGuide G1742  
“Spring Flowering Bulbs, available at the extension office or online at <http://www.ianrpubs.unl.edu/epublic/pages/index.jsp>



Squill

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