Dennis' 7 Dees

MONTHLY GARDENING CHECKLIST

September

As Summer fades, we welcome the changes that September brings. Late-season Summer blooms and brilliant, fresh Fall colors are putting on a tremendous show. September is nothing short of exciting when it comes to gardening—Fall is the very best time for planting! It's also time to finish harvesting those tasty Summer veggies to make room for Fall and Winter crops.

FOR THE GARDEN

Seasonal Color

- [ ] **Plant Fall color:** Asters, Mums, Rudbeckia, Pansies, Ornamental Cabbage/Kale, colorful Peppers
- [ ] **Refresh Fall containers** with plants that will pack a punch this season and provide interest all Winter long.
- [ ] **Buy Spring-flowering bulbs:** Daffodils, Tulips, Crocus
  - » Fall bulbs can be planted as late as Thanksgiving, but late September or October is best.
  - » Use **G&B Soil Building Conditioner** and **bone meal** or **bulb food** at planting time.
  - » Add to Fall and Winter container plantings with annuals like Pansies or Violas layered over the top.

Planting & Maintenance

- [ ] **Divide Spring-blooming, tuberous perennials** like Iris, Peonies, Daylilies, Shasta Daisies, and others to reinvigorate and make more to plant in other locations.
- [ ] **Plant or transplant trees, shrubs, and perennials** as weather cools and regular rains return. Use **G&B Starter Fertilizer** and **Soil Conditioner**; water in with **Bonide Root & Grow** or **Malibu Bu's Brew Compost Tea**.
- [ ] **Proactively control pests** to improve garden productivity:
  - » Control slugs with **bait traps**, **Sluggo**, **Sluggo Plus**, or **Bonide Slug Magic**.
  - » Apply beneficial nematodes to Rhodies and Azaleas suffering from root weevil damage.

Edible Gardening

- [ ] **It's harvest time!** Winter Squash, Tomatoes, Potatoes, Onions, Garlic
- [ ] **Apply mulch (G&B Soil Building Conditioner)** to young plantings of Carrots, Parsnips, Beets for Winter harvest.
- [ ] **Continue to plant cover crops** in the veggie garden as larger bed space opens up. Cover crops compete with weeds, improve soil, and add nutrition.
- [ ] **Plant this month:** Garlic (bulbs), Radish, Spinach, Kale, Chard, Lettuce, Mustard Greens

FOR THE LAWN

- [ ] **Start new lawn or overseed patchy lawns** now through mid-October.
  - » Seed a new lawn with 7–10 lbs of seed per 1000 square feet; use half this amount if overseeding.
  - » Use **Grass seed**, **lime**, **G&B Organic Lawn Fertilizer**, and **G&B Soil Building Conditioner**.
- [ ] It's also prime time to **aerate and repair existing lawns**.
- [ ] **Need help?** Call our **Residential Maintenance Team**!

INDOOR GARDENING

- [ ] **Bring houseplants indoors** if they have been outside.
- [ ] **Develop Fall houseplant care routine:** Clean foliage, check for insects, mist, and water.
- [ ] **Repot and fertilize** excessively root-bound plants if necessary; this is the last "active" growing month for indoor plants before they begin to go dormant.
- [ ] **Add new grow lights** to benefit houseplants and mood!
- [ ] **Have an Amaryllis?** Stop watering now; let it go dormant 4–6 weeks in shed, garage, or basement. Repot and bring back into warm, bright room to re-bloom in Winter.

JUST FOR FUN

- [ ] **Decorate for Fall!** Pumpkins and gourds arrive in stores this month. Combine orange pumpkins with hay bales for a classic Fall vibe, or choose muted peach and sage green for a sophisticated Autumn update.
- [ ] **Take herb cuttings!** Cut several 2 to 4-inch stems from Rosemary, Basil, Thyme, and Sage—place in water for a few weeks indoors while roots grow. Gently transplant into container with G&B Potting Soil and place outside.
- [ ] **Take Coleus cuttings!** Cut 6-inch portion off top; remove a few leaves from base. Place in water; watch new roots form through October. Pot up as new Winter houseplant!
- [ ] **Attend a Fall Gardening class!**

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