



the *Trumpet Vine*

Knowledge for the Community from the Loudoun County Master Gardeners

Fall 2006

Volume I, Issue 3

www.loudouncountymastergardeners.org

LOUDOUN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER MONTHLY MEETINGS

FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Meetings are held at the Virginia Tech
Extension Office, 30B Catoctin Circle
SE, Leesburg at 7pm

SEPTEMBER 7

"Gardening Season In Review"
Open Discussion of what went well
and problems encountered during the
2006 growing season. Public is wel-
come to come and share!

OCTOBER 5

"Herb Gardening"
Marianne Ritchie, expert herb
grower, cook, and author, will share
her knowledge of growing herbs and
using fresh herbs in recipes. Please
join us at 7pm in the Extension Of-
fice.

NOVEMBER 2

*"Putting Your Garden to Bed for
Winter"*
A professional grower will share
tricks of the trade on winterizing
gardens for a good spring start. See
our website for updates.

LUNCH AND LEARN

*Ida Lee Demo Garden, Tues-
days at noon through Sept 26*

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Dig Into Loudoun County - Become A Master Gardener!

If you enjoy gardening you might want to consider becoming a Master Gardener. You don't have to be an expert — all it requires is a willingness to give back to the community and an interest in learning research techniques using horticulturally sound resources.



What's a Master Gardener?

The Master Gardener Program is a nationwide, state-sponsored volunteer organization. Its goals are to enhance the knowledge of county residents in horticulture-related matters through education and dissemination of information and to enhance and supplement the work of the Loudoun County Extension office. Master Gardeners support safe, effective, and sustainable landscape management practices.

As a Master Gardener you can delve into a variety of activities such as:

- ❖ Diagnosing client's problems while working on the Help Desk or at a Gardening Clinic
- ❖ Planting and maintaining an organic demonstration garden
- ❖ Creating gardens with school children
- ❖ Speaking to civic groups.

Whether you love to dig in the dirt or apply your computer skills, the Master Gardener Association has a place for you.

Becoming a Master Gardener

Prospective Master Gardeners progress from "Trainee" to "Intern" before graduating as a "Master Gardener." This one-year period consists of approximately 60 hours of classroom learning and 75 hours of hands-on internship.

We are currently accepting applications for the 2007 training class. For more information and the application see our website, www.loudouncountymastergardeners.org, or call or e-mail the Help Desk.

Fall Gardening Events

Loudoun County Master Gardener Events

Every Tues	<p><i>"Lunch & Learn in the Garden"</i> – join us at the Ida Lee Demonstration Garden every Tuesday throughout the summer to hear speakers and see the latest gardening techniques at noon. In case of rain, check our website.</p> <p>8/22 - What You Need to Know About Lyme Disease</p> <p>8/29 - Lasagna Gardening</p> <p>9/5 - Harvesting Herbs</p> <p>9/12 - Composting</p> <p>9/19 - Fall in the Garden</p> <p>9/25 - Planting Bulbs</p>
Sep 7	<p><i>"Gardening Season in Review"</i> - 7 pm, Ida Lee Demonstration Garden</p> <p>Open discussion of what went well and problems encountered during the 2006 growing season. The public is welcome to come and share with us.</p>
Oct 5	<p><i>"Herb Gardening"</i> - 7 pm, Extension Office</p> <p>Marianne M. Ritchie, expert herb grower (commercially founded A Thyme to Plant Herb Farm) and author.</p>
Nov 2	<p><i>"Putting Your Garden to Bed"</i> - 7 pm, Extension Office</p> <p>A professional grower will share tricks of the trade on winterizing gardens for a good spring start.</p>
<p>Check our website – www.loudouncountymastergardeners.org – for additional details and latest information.</p>	

Events in our Area

There are several fall gardening events that you may be interested in attending. They promise to be educational, informative, and exciting. The Loudoun County Master Gardeners are participating – we hope to see you there – please stop by to say "Hello."

The first annual Virginia Garden Festival is being held on Saturday, September 16th at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, 1800 Lakeside Avenue, Richmond. The VA Green Industry Council in conjunction with the Ginter Fall Plant Sale sponsors this event. The purpose is to provide information, education, products, and demonstrations. Mike McGrath (host of nationally syndicated "You Bet Your Garden" radio program and Mark Viette who will air "In the Garden" live from the festival) are just two examples of the renowned speakers who are presenting during the festival. And admission is free! For more information, go to <http://www.virginiagreen.org/virginiagardenfestival.htm>.



Ginter's Four Season Garden

The Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden offers 40 acres of spectacular beauty and the mid-Atlantic's only classically styled Conservatory open to the public. For directions, go to www.lewisginter.org.

Enjoy old-fashioned fun at the 37th annual Bluemont Fair in the historic village of Bluemont, in the foothills of Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains on September 16th and 17th. Directions and information can be found at www.bluemontfair.com.



The Loudoun County Master Gardeners are planning some great activities for kids as well as our live worm composting demo!



Blandy Plant Sale

The State Arboretum of VA is again holding its fall ArborFest and Plant Sale on the second weekend in October, the 7th and 8th. This year's event is honoring America's 400th Anniversary and includes colonial children's activities (toy making, map making, popcorn, scarecrow making, and hayrides).

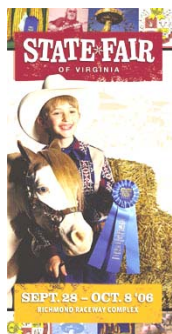
The State Arboretum of VA co-exists with the University of VA's Experimental Farm on 700 acres called Blandy. It's about 10 miles east of Winchester and displays more than 8,000 trees and woody shrubs. This includes more than half the world's pine species, the VA Native Plant Trail, the Boxwood Memorial Garden, a spectacular grove of more than 300 ginkgo trees, and an herb garden featuring culinary, medicinal, and ornamental herbs. Parking is \$5.00 and admission is free. For additional information, go to www.virginia.edu/blandy.

Loudoun County's Fall Color Tour on October 21st - 22nd includes the Master Gardeners' Ida Lee Demonstration Garden. Children can build their own scarecrow to take home. Master Gardeners are available to discuss end-of-season chores needed to "put the garden to bed" for the winter and to answer questions about gardening topics.

The organic demonstration garden features vegetables, fruits, ornamental plants, and several specialty gardens such as a butterfly garden, a children's garden, and a compost demonstration area. This year includes a Colonial Garden in honor of America's 400th Anniversary and a red-white-blue cutting garden.



An October Snowman??



Each year, the VA Master Gardeners staff a booth at our state fair to answer horticultural questions and provide environmentally safe gardening information.

Different Master Gardener units around the state take turns staffing the booth. This year's fair runs from Sep 28 through Oct 8. Loudoun County Master Gardeners are in the booth on Wednesday, Oct 4. If you're at the fair, come see us!

Master Gardener Janette Sawyer

Fall Flowers

Bulbs! Bulbs! Bulbs!

One of the most exciting fall activities is planting bulbs. They are easy to grow, provide almost year-round color, and bring unique form, color, and fragrance to the garden. The appearance of bulbs forcing their noses out of the ground are one of the first signs that spring is arriving.



The Loudoun County Master Gardeners are selling bulbs this fall. They are very reasonably priced and the Order Form is included with this edition of the Trumpet Vine. We hope you'll consider purchasing your bulbs from us when planning what beauty and interest you want to add to your landscape. The form is also posted on our website if you have friends and neighbors who may be interested at www.loudouncountymastergardeners.org.

When should I plant bulbs?

Fall is the best time to plant most bulbs — hardy bulbs like tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, and crocus. Tender bulbs are those that can't survive outside in the winter and must be planted in the spring.

The prime time for planting bulbs is from September to November; but the bottom-line is that you can plant until the ground is frozen.

How deep should I plant my bulbs?

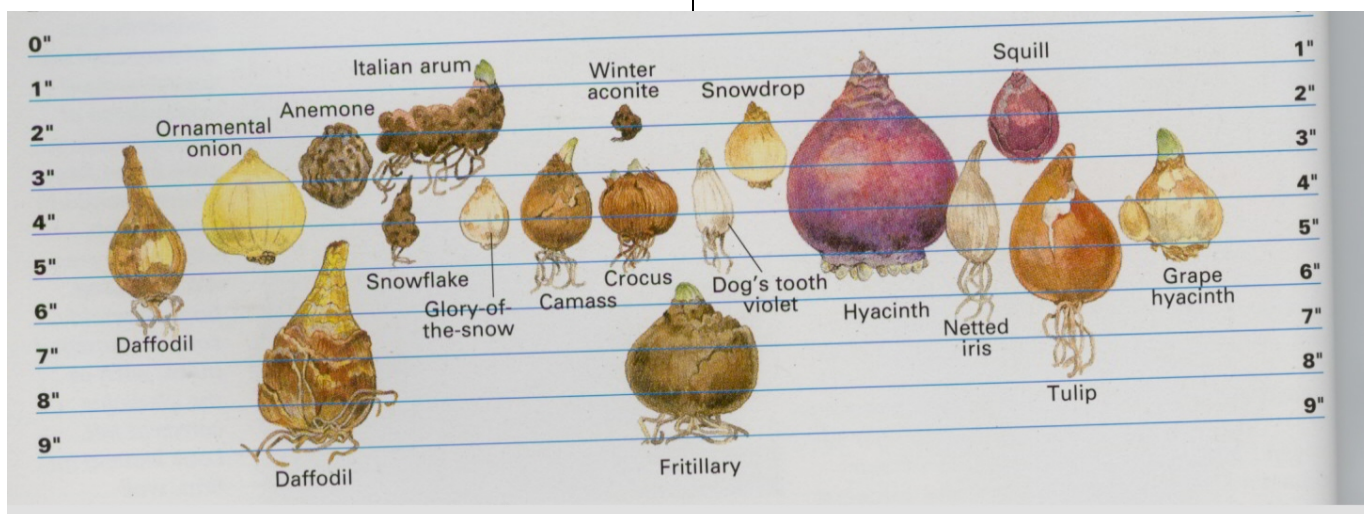
Planting depth depends on the size of bulb you are planting. The general rule of thumb is to plant a bulb two to three times its height. The depth is measured from the top (or nose) of the bulb. Larger bulbs like tulips and daffodils are planted 6" deep — while smaller bulbs (muscari and crocus) are planted 4" deep.

When planting, you can mix humus with your soil and put a little bone meal in the bottom of the hole before you've placed the bulb(s).

What care do bulbs need?

Bulbs require very little care. The most important thing is to leave the foliage on the plant after blooming. As it turns brown, we're tempted to get rid of those leaves, but they are feeding the bulb. Removing the foliage deprives the bulb from the nutrients it needs to live and return next year. This is the time in the bulb's life cycle to add bone meal or commercial bulb food if you desire.

Master Gardener Janette Sawyer



America's Anniversary Garden

What is the America's Anniversary Garden? 2007 marks the 400th anniversary of Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in the Americas. In order to commemorate this momentous event, Virginia has asked individuals and communities to plant their own America's Anniversary Garden in red, white, and blue. You can find information on Jamestown's 400th anniversary events at <http://www.jamestown2007.org>.

If you're planning your own garden, visit the Ida Lee Demo Garden for a terrific example of a summer / fall garden featuring zinnias, petunias, and salvia. For more information, go to <http://www.ext.vt.edu/americasgarden/>.



Ida Lee Demonstration Garden

With a little care, your salute to Jamestown can continue to re-bloom into autumn. If your garden includes zinnias note that one of the keys to success is avoiding foliage diseases such as mildew and leaf spots. These problems do not become serious unless the leaves are wet or moist for long periods. To promote continuous flowering keep all old or faded flowers pruned or pinched so that all growth activity is channeled to the production of new stems and flowers. You can also collect seeds from the pruned blossoms for next year's garden.



Zinnias, petunias, and salvia

For beds of petunias, practice deadheading and "staggered pruning." Cut back the shoots to one-half their length. This forces the plant to produce shoots or branches from below the cut. These branches produce flower buds. Stagger your pruning by cutting back one-third of a bed each week. By the third week the first group of pruned plants are blooming again, assuring some color during the entire pruning period. Salvia requires little or no maintenance but can also become diseased with mildew. Deadheading may help insure re-bloom.

Master Gardener Sally Barlow

Potential candidates for your America's Anniversary Garden include:

Red	White	Blue
<i>Annuals</i>	<i>Annuals</i>	<i>Annuals</i>
Petunias	Pansies	Pansies
<i>Shrubs</i>	<i>Perennials</i>	<i>Perennials</i>
Aronia brilliantissima	Clematis-sweet autumn	Agastache 'Blue Fortune'
Euonymus americanus	Euphorbia 'Diamond Frost'	Aster
Hydrangea oakleaf	Ginger lily	Plumbago
Redtwig dogwood	Shasta daisy	Salvia (blue varieties)
<i>Trees</i>	White Chrysanthemum	<i>Shrubs</i>
Dogwood	<i>Shrubs</i>	Caryopteris
Hawthorn- Winter King	Callicarpa japonica 'Leucocarpa'	<i>Trees</i>
Sourwood	Clematis-sweet autumn	Fringetree

Goldenrod



The bright yellow plumes of the *Solidago* species that wave gracefully along roadsides and in waste areas from July until November have drawn the attention of American gardeners for the past several years. Because of its ability to survive roadside conditions, it is an ideal candidate for low water use areas in the home landscape. Northern Europeans have recognized the ornamental properties of goldenrod for years; they use them liberally to enliven gardens in autumn.

Unlike many tall flowers, goldenrod grows sturdy and upright, thus requiring no stakes. Plant forms tend to improve under cultivation, but some goldenrod can become aggressive and weedy in rich soil. Flower heads make long-lasting cut flowers. Dried sprays are particularly useful in herbal wreaths and fall wall ornaments.

This showy plant should be a prime candidate for late season color in perennial plantings, but goldenrod has been maligned and, therefore, shunned by most American gardeners in the past. Goldenrod is so conspicuous in the landscape, it usually gets the blame for fall hay fever. Actually, ragweed (*Ambrosia* spp.) is the major culprit of nasal distress. Ragweed blooms at the same time as goldenrod, but its small, dull, yellow-green flowers do not attract the eye of humans, nor many insect pollinators. For fertilization, ragweed produces large quantities of light pollen that are carried by the wind to other plants. By comparison, goldenrod pollen is too heavy to be airborne long and bees are the principal pollinators.

Over 125 species of *Solidago* grow in the United States. Some common natives have good ornamental qualities:

- ❖ *Solidago speciosa* (showy goldenrod) forms large, club-shaped, terminal flower clusters on 5-6' stalks.
- ❖ *S. rugosa* (rough-leaved goldenrod) occurs in low woods and meadows. Its long, arching, flower sprays are displayed on 4' stems. Plants spread by rhizomes and need plenty of room (at least 3' in all directions) to avoid crowding out other plants.
- ❖ *S. altissima* (tall goldenrod) and *S. gigantea* (giant goldenrod) can fill an area rapidly. Both grow to 7' and are excellent for naturalizing sunny banks.
- ❖ *S. odora* (sweet goldenrod) a native of open woods and dry meadows, exudes an anise scent when bruised. It is a short species (2-3') that blossoms early.

Most garden catalogs feature a few varieties of goldenrod for sale. Most of these are hybrids of *S. canadensis*, native to eastern North America, and *S. virgaurea*, a species found in Europe, Asia, and northern America. Local nurseries also usually carry a selection of goldenrod. Division of mature plants can be made in early spring every three to four years. Big plants can separate into 30 or more pieces, making division the easiest way to propagate goldenrod.

Debbie D. Dillion
Urban Horticulturist, Loudoun County Extension

Debbie Dillion is the Urban Horticulturist and coordinator of the Master Gardener Volunteer program in Loudoun County. She can be reached at 703-771-5838.

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Fall Container Gardening

Are your container plants looking a little sad? Summer heat got them down? Got you down?

Here are some ideas for perking up your existing planters or for creating some new ones for fall. Be on the lookout for new varieties being introduced this fall.

Some plants to watch are: coleus, pansies, sunflowers, cabbages, heuchera, ornamental peppers, sedums, and grasses.



This container is filled with several of the new varieties of Heuchera that have been showing up the last couple of years. The names are almost enough to make you want to buy one of each. 'Crème Brûlée', 'Marmalade', 'Strawberry Swirls', 'Plum Pudding',

Here is a Heuchera with one of the new Coleus and Strawflower.

Below you can see the variety of colors Heuchera comes in.



One sedum in particular that is outstanding – currently thriving in my garden is 'Diamond Frost'. The color in 'Black Pearl' ornamental pepper is amazing! Almost truly black covered with tiny ruby red peppers.

These pictures are courtesy of *Proven Winners*. Please check their website for hundreds of container recipes and information on the plants shown. <http://www.provenwinners.com/>

Master Gardener Becky Phillips

Window Box

If you don't want your window boxes to look empty when all the beautiful summer flowers are gone, plant some cold-hardy combinations.

This example from *Southern Living* uses green, white, and silver for foundation plants. As the season progresses, you can add a color of color: marigolds for fall, berries for the holidays (shown).



Flowers

- Pansy
- Paperwhites
- Viola

Cold-hardy plants include . . .

Shrubs:

- Boxwood
- Colorado blue spruce
- Dwarf Alberta spruce

Foliage:

- Dusty miller
- Flowering cabbage
- Flowering kale
- Monkey grass
- Parsley
- Variegated Ivy



Boxwood, paperwhites, flowering cabbages, dusty miller, white voilas, variegated ivy

Lawn Care

Leaf Mulch — As Good as Gold

Pound for pound, leaves can do more to improve your garden than any lawn or garden product available.

In forests and other natural settings, tree leaves and other organic materials form a natural carpet over the soil surface which conserves moisture, modifies temperatures, and prevents soil



erosion and crusting. In time bacteria, fungi, and other natural occurring organisms decompose or compost the leaves and other organic material, supplying the existing plants with a natural, slow release of nutrients. Yet every fall we rake and bag

leaves to be carried to the landfill and then in the spring we buy bags of wood mulch to spread around our shrubs and in our garden. *We should learn from nature!*

Think of leaf mulch as compost waiting to happen! It is the closest available substance to the organic soil layer that all gardeners are trying to promote. It is an excellent growing medium and a weed suppressor.

Also called leaf mold, leaf mulch is rich in calcium and magnesium essential for vegetables. As leaves decompose they slowly release into the soil nutrients and micronutrients not normally found in commercial fertilizers. Leaves also serve as food for earthworms and we all know the value of earthworms in our garden.

Shredding

Leaves should be shredded prior to being used as mulch.

- ❖ Shredding hastens the decomposition process. Leaf mulch is actively decomposing. 4" applied in the fall may be 3" by spring.
- ❖ Shredding prevents matting and ensures a porous layer that allows the penetration of air and water.

- ❖ Shredded leaves don't blow like intact leaves do, so they stay in place.
- ❖ Shredded leaves have a neat, even appearance. Shredding can reduce 10 bags of leaves to 1 bag of leaf mulch.

How to Make Leaf Mulch

If you don't have a large number of leaves and the leaves are on your lawn, you can simply run a lawn mower over them to mulch them. Some mowers are mulching mowers and do a very good job of cutting up leaves.

To handle larger quantities of leaves and leaves that are in beds and other areas where mowers can't be used, there are various types of blower / vacuum / mulchers that gather the mulched leaves in a bag.



Also available is a product that I use that I describe as a weed eater in a barrel. This handles a large volume of leaves and it deposits the mulched leaves into a garbage bag attached to the bottom.

What to do with Leaf Mulch

- ❖ Work it into the soil as an amendment to modify clay or sandy soil, increase the amount of organic material, and prevent compaction.
- ❖ Put a 2-4" layer on top of the soil. Leaf mulch performs all the functions of wood mulch, only better. It never creates a crust that keeps out water and it decomposes faster.
- ❖ Put finely mulched leaves on your lawn for a healthier, weed-free lawn that needs less fertilizer.

So don't toss those leaves — mulch them. If you don't have trees or any source of leaves, become a leaf rescuer and liberate those bags that others leave at the curb!

Master Gardener Carol Ivory

Did You Know? It is an established fact that the trees in one acre of forest shed as much as two tons of leaves each fall.

Trees and Shrubs

Fall Bloomers

If you want to add some fall interest to your landscape, here are some plants to consider for next year.

Amelanchier x grandiflora or Serviceberry is a shrub or small tree with red to dark purple fruit, ripening June to August. The fruits are edible and may be the best kept secret in the woods. It also has orange / red fall color to add more



interest and the bark is ashy-gray with dark stripes. As the plant matures, the bark becomes rough with long splits and furrows. Serviceberries are most effective in a mass along the edge of

woodlands. The best blooms and fall color come if they are planted in full sun, but they also do well in bright filtered light. This is a great plant for damp spots in the yard with an acid pH.

Itea virginica or Virginia Sweetspire is another nice choice for a wet spot. Sweetspire is covered in summer with white fragrant blooms and in fall has beautiful red-purple color. It grows best in full sun, but tolerates some shade. This shrub reaches about 8' at maturity. 'Henry's Garnet' (shown), stays about 3'-5' and has a brilliant red / purple color in the fall. If you are in Leesburg, you can see it at the parking lot on North Street near the Courthouse.



Nyssa sylvatica / Black Tupelo reaches up to 80' on moist sites. Also known as Sour Gum or Black Gum, it is a native tree. *Nyssa* has beautiful fall color with

leaves starting out glowing yellow. It then changes colors, going thru the entire fall color spectrum: orange, scarlet, and purple. Give it

full sun or bright shade and moist well-drained soil. Protect it from the north winds.

Caryopteris / Blue Mist – This is a valuable plant for the garden providing late season blooms when many other plants have passed their prime. The rich blue flowers are appealing, as there are few options for blue color in the landscape. Blooms



are produced by new growth. Use it in the mixed border, or as a mass planting in dry, sunny areas. The flowers and foliage have a pleasant scent, and may be cut for use in arrangements. 'Sunshine Blue' is a gold-leaf

bluebeard. It has larger, brighter yellow foliage. And that's just the leaves! Sunshine Blue has rich blue flowers that overwhelm the pale blue blooms of other cultivars.

Cotinus coggyria / Smoke Bush – Anyone that has seen this shrub / small tree tends to remember it. The leaves are green or purple and after the flowers fade, the fruit clusters create an unusual smoky look, thereby it's common name. Plant in partial shade to full sun, Smokebush



prefers well-drained soil, but tolerates a wide range of soil conditions. Suggested uses for this plant include border, massing, but it really shines as a specimen plant. 'Purpureus' has purple foliage and purplish fruiting plumes. 'Velvet cloak' has dark purple leaves, reddish-purple fall color.

Well that's it for my suggestions this time. Next issue, I will cover some great plants for winter interest and attracting birds to your garden

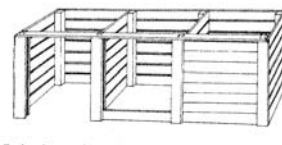
Master Gardener Becky Phillips

Fall Gardening Tips

Fall in the Garden – Preparing for Winter

Now that we've had some cooler weather – with more to come, it's time to start thinking about and planning fall gardening activities.

First and foremost is giving your garden a good clean-up before winter. Pick up dead vegetable and flower materials before the leaves start to fall. Sanitation is the best thing you can do to reduce insect and plant disease problems for next year. Hopefully you have a compost bin for that dead material. Rake leaves and add them to the compost bin or chop them for mulch with your mower.



Avoid any major pruning or fertilizing. Your plants need to be dormant for the winter and both these activities stimulate growth.



Clean-up includes your gardening tools and supplies. Check any left-over chemicals to determine if they should be saved. Over time, the active ingredients lose their effectiveness. Make sure any chemicals that you are keeping until next season are safely stored and clearly marked.

If you need to put in a new lawn or re-seed areas of an existing lawn, now is the time to do it. You may want to aerate or de-thatch mature lawns.



If we don't get a lot of rain by the end of October, water your trees – particularly evergreens. Shrubs and perennials also need water. Even though they may appear to be dormant, their roots are actively growing and functioning.

You can protect your perennials from winter freezing and thawing by putting mulch, compost, leaves, or straw around them.



Bring houseplants that have been outdoors inside and check them for bugs. Also bring in any tender plants that you want to overwinter like tender herbs and geraniums.

If you haven't had your soil tested in the past three years, now is the time. Contact the Master Garden Help Desk (703 771-5150 or ex107mg@mail.vt.edu) or stop by (30B Catocin Circle, Leesburg) to get a Soil Test Kit. It includes an envelope to mail to VA Tech for analysis and you receive a detailed report of your soil's composition as well as recommendations to improve it.



Once you've finished your gardening for the season, clean and store all your tools. Keeping tools clean and sharp increase their usefulness and lengthen their life. Sharpen tools, then coat metal parts lightly with oil and rub wooden handles with boiled linseed oil. Drain power tools of gasoline, and obtain filters, mufflers, and tune-up parts so a fall tune-up can get the equipment ready for early spring jobs. Have maintenance done, if needed, in the winter when demand is lowest and you can afford to let the repairer take his or her time. If each tool has its own place in the storage area, it is simple to determine if tools are missing.

Now you're ready to relax in front of a nice warm fireplace and reflect on this year's gardening season!

Master Gardener Janette Sawyer

Fall in the Garden – Planting

For those of you who enjoy working in your garden during the cool, crisp autumn days, this is a wonderful time to plant trees and shrubs.



To add fall color to your garden, plant mums, asters, marigolds, flowering cabbage, and pansies.



Marigolds



Pansies



Mums

For interest in your landscape, plant ornamental grasses.



Cool crops that can be planted now are garlic, lettuce, kale, radishes, and spinach.



If you're ready to put the vegetable garden to "bed" for the winter, consider plant a cover crop of rye, vetch, or clover to add organic matter to your soil.

Think ahead to spring and plant bulbs to add beauty to your spring landscape. Remember the Master Gardeners' Bulb Sale! Dig up your tender bulbs (gladioli, cannas, and dahlias).



Bulb Garden



Knife

It is also the ideal time to divide your perennials, if needed.

If you have perennials with seed heads, you may want to leave them standing over the winter to provide birds with a little snack.



Master Gardener Janette Sawyer *Seed Heads*

Fall Color

Salvias are a whole family that keeps growing with new varieties being introduced every year. *Salvia guaranitica* 'Black and Blue' is a perennial in Loudoun County. Mine is just starting to bloom as I write this (end of July) and will continue to bloom almost 'til frost. It has black stems and vibrant blue flowers. Another salvia that provides late season color is Pineapple Sage. Reaching 3'-4' in height it has bright red flowers against grass green foliage, again, blooming until frost kills it. Pineapple Sage is considered an annual here.

This family is well worth investigating – containing both perennials and annuals, blooming periods from spring until frost with a large color range in both flowers and foliage. Salvias belong to the mint family and can become invasive in the wrong setting. If this is a concern, keep them out of moist areas. They prefer full sun, require no deadheading and are pest/disease free.

Master Gardener Becky Phillips



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Master Gardener Tips

It's time to switch gears and begin preparing for winter! Many trees and shrubs do best when planted in the fall – and it's time to begin preparing for winter.

The average date of the first fall frost in Loudoun County is October 15.

Flowers	Garden	Lawn	Trees / Shrubs
Plant spring-blooming bulbs	Plant (or transplant) cool crops (arugula, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce)	Install new lawns and keep them moist	Plant roses, shrubs, and trees
Plant fall flowers (colchicum and crocus bulbs, asters, chrysanthemums, biennial seeds, fall / winter pansies, ornamental cabbage and kale)	Plant cool season salad greens in a cold frame or protected site; cover if necessary from early frost	De-thatch and / or aerate mature lawns if needed	Plant and / or transplant broadleaf evergreens (holies, rhododendrons)
Plant ornamental grasses	Pot herbs to take inside for winter use (chives, oregano, rosemary and sweet marjoram); sow parsley in a pot	Have your soil tested to determine the pH (6.2-6.5 is desirable) - now is the time to apply lime if your pH is too low	Prune hedges if overgrown, but only minimally, so not to overdo before winter
Divide overcrowded perennials	Harvest any warm season crops before frost; extend your season by covering during early frosts; enclose tomato cages to encourage ripening	Leave seed heads and grasses for birds to eat and hide	Do <u>not</u> fertilize shrubs or trees so they can go dormant and not put out new growth that cannot harden off before winter
Fertilize roses for the last time to allow them to harden off before winter; continue deadheading	Turn soil and prepare beds for next year; plant cover crops if desired	Now is a good time to start a compost pile with the abundance of leaves, and grass clippings	Watch for bagworms, fall webworms and tent caterpillars - and destroy
Start edging and mulching beds; be sure they are weed free; clean out faded flowers and vegetables		Edge, mulch, and weed	Water broad-leaved evergreens, dogwoods and new plants thoroughly before ground freezes
Bring any tender flowers inside (geraniums) to overwinter		Clean and sharpen tools and equipment for next year	Wrap evergreen plants for protection:
Dig up tender bulbs after foliage yellows and before frost; allow to air dry and store in a cool dry spot inside the house		Turn off outside water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Netting for deer • Burlap for wind • Wire (2-3" from trunk) for rodents
Pot spring bulbs for forcing like daffodils, hyacinths, and tulips and put in cold frame, garage, or refrigerator (@ 40°) to bring inside in January / February; keep moist		Empty gas and / or oil from yard equipment	Mound soil and or leaves around roses above graft to protect; not needed for shrub roses
		Store excess chemicals where they are safe and won't freeze; ALWAYS leave them in their original containers to identify and keep safety warnings visible	

Important: Fall is the time that insects come indoors to hibernate. Seal cracks and crevices around your foundation, doors, and windows. For infestations of ladybugs or boxelder bugs, your vacuum cleaner is the best solution. Spiders are beneficial insects, so capture them and release them outside if possible.

Visit our website at www.loudouncountymastergardeners.org or the Ida Lee Demonstration Garden to see the latest gardening tips and techniques. Contact our Help Desk with your questions at 703 771-5150 or ex107@vt.edu.