

What to do in your garden

September can bring us a few more wet and yet often hot days. This weather usually sees a brilliant spurt in growth, especially to lawns, and more cuts may be needed! Continue to deadhead, or as a lovely client said 'Beheaded' not deadheaded! Dahlias and Penstemons. But leave Crocosmias, Echinacea's, Rudbeckias for Autumn/Winter show. It's time to look at your borders and decide which plants from next month could be divided and moved, or just moved to a better place. Remember to add some bone meal in the hole for newly planted and if you have any, mix in a small amount of multipurpose compost to help it establish. Water well and regularly over the next few weeks. Make sure it's planted where it will get rain and not too close to another plant, perennial or shrub.

Bulbs will be on the agenda from now on. Think; where do you need some more spring colour? Look at your spring pictures; where were those Daffodils, Tulips, Anemones, Alliums and Snowdrops?

Plant in threes or fives – for the larger plants, the impact will be far greater, for the smaller Anemones, fill the hole with at

least 7–10 corms. There is a lot to still see this month, from the delicate movement of ornamental grasses, which are starting to mature into strands of jewels, to the stunning Echinacea's or Rudbeckias, standing upright, holding large beautiful colourful daisy like flowers. Fuchsias will still be going strong.

Plants to work on/deadheading: Continue to deadhead your Cosmos, as more will come, and continue to feed your summer bedding, hanging baskets and pots, as you will be rewarded. You can treat your lawn with a general autumn weed and feed, water if no rain after 3 days max. Two weeks afterwards when the moss has died, cut, rake and scarify the lawns and cut again, expose the soil and cut up creeping lawn weeds and rake the area to remove debris. Spike it before scattering a topsoil and grass mix (70% top -30% seed) to increase the plant stock per square centimetre, gentle brush/rake and water in. This will help choke the weeds out and produce a good and healthy-looking lawn. Moss hates a rich and free draining soil.



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