


# What to do in your garden



Autumn has arrived, it's a great time to see the beautiful reds, oranges and yellows showing in the leaves and there's still lots of plants out there to put a smile on your face. Including the reddening leaves of Liquidambars and Acers, amazing displays with purple berries on the 'Beautyberry' (Callicarpa), the pretty flowers of Asters, Nerines, Rudbeckias and backed up with grasses. There are also unusual Liriopes with metallic purple berries, Japanese Anemones, Sedums, Cyclamen, beautiful Fuchsias, and Dahlias. There is a lot of work to be done and now is the time to start the preparation for the spring and summer of next year.

Autumn is a great time to look at your borders. Inspect perennials, remove any rotting/dried foliage and clear all debris from around the plant's base. Also, clear leaves around the base of your shrubs. These are habitats for good bugs, as well as bad. Make one or two areas dedicated to bugs in your garden. They can fight it out in one area rather than all over the garden.

Make 'bug hotels', which is very easy to do by adding

some leaves and debris into a hessian bag.

Open up the borders to allow the rain to get into the soil, but not too close or deep around plant roots. Think about splitting perennials and moving elsewhere. Geraniums are really great plants for all aspects and should establish very quickly. If your Crocosmia, Heleniums or day lilies are overgrown or not flowering very well, split, replant and/ or move them. Always give newly dug holes a dusting of bonemeal to the soil to help the roots take hold before the winter. Try to make a moat around the plant base, so when watering, it doesn't flow elsewhere. Please be generous when you water, and water regularly if no good rains.

Continue to cut your lawns. Just take off the tips to keep neat, rake away the anthills or worm casts beforehand. There is still time to give your lawn its autumn treatment. Grass will continue to grow well into November, even December in a normal year. Hedges can be given a cut at this time of year, but don't cut too deep. Conifers will struggle to regrow if you cut back into old wood. Bulb planting season starts now, wait until a frost to get Tulips in.



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