

Green Corner- by Kathy Cail

Fall Garden tips:

As days get shorter and cooler, it's a great time to take a look at your landscaping and making some decisions. Take a look at what you like and didn't like about your garden spaces this year and make notes about what to keep and what to improve or goals you may have for your property. Those catalogs will be coming soon advertising new plants.

Things to do in the garden right now:

- Pull up summer annuals and replace them with any fall foliage you may want, such as mums or fall ornamental cabbages, which will remain vibrant through till December.
- Weed your beds and add mulch.
- Plant spring flowering bulbs like tulips and daffodils when the temperatures are in the lower 50's, any earlier the warmer temps will make them sprout prematurely.
- Make sure you bring in any house plants you may have had out this summer, checking for any insects that may have found your plant a home. Use appropriate insecticides outdoors before bringing them in.
- If you feel the need to prune trees or shrubs, you will want to wait because pruning often encourages new growth and with winter coming, it will kill the new growth. Prune in the middle to late winter when sap is not running and the plants are dormant.
- Don't feed any plants at this time for the same reason as pruning. Wait until late winter to apply any fertilizers to beds, shrubs and trees.
- Do plant perennials as the temperatures get cooler. They will be bare rooted or small, but going into the ground now, they will become dormant and then be ready in the spring. Divide any over grown perennials and replant or give them away to neighbors and friends.
- Remember when raking leaves that you can shred them and make some great mulch to enrich your soil or compost. Unfortunately, Rumpke does not do garden waste pickups for composting. I am not aware of anywhere local that takes yard waste for composting unless you live within the city limits.
- Do resist the urge to do a deep garden clean up of faded perennials as those stems and leaves provide cover and food for wildlife such as native birds, butterfly chrysalises, and native bees. That is best done in early spring. The exception to this is if you have had

diseases such as mildews or viruses, then you will want to remove those plants and destroy them to prevent spread.

- Feel free to plant cold weather crops like lettuce, cabbage, broccoli and carrots. The cooler temps will sweeten those vegetables. You can harvest into November or later, especially if you have a row cover or cold frame.

Fall can be a beautiful time with the changing colors and cooler temperatures. It's nice to put your garden to rest and get ready for the next gardening season. Stay green!