

Fall Landscaping Hints

Provided by Michele Fletcher, Landscape Designer, Rockbridge Baths, VA plantlover@ntelos.net for viriniagardening.com

1. Mulch around shrubs, trees and perennials. (Don't place it against tree trunk.)
2. Autumn is an excellent time to plant most trees and shrubs.
3. Rake leaves and make use of them for mulching and composting. Burning them is wasteful of a valuable natural resource and pollution causing.)
4. Plant bulbs for spring color.
5. Fertilize and lime lawns. (Take a soil sample first and follow those recommendations.)
6. September is a very good time to seed new lawns or reseed bare areas in existing lawn areas.
7. If you wish to transplant deciduous trees or shrubs, late October or even November is an excellent time.
8. If it is a dry autumn, be sure to water shrubs and trees, especially evergreens, very well before the ground freezes, with emphasis on newly planted shrubs and trees.
9. Protect sensitive plants. (Spray on anti-desiccants or wrap with burlap, etc.)
10. Generally, shrubs that flower on the current year's wood may be pruned between late autumn and late winter or early spring, i.e. Butterfly Bush, Ornamental Grasses, Blue Mist Shrub, Crape Myrtle, etc.)
11. Fall is an excellent time to divide and share perennials or transplant them.

Some suggested plants for fall interest:

- Japanese Maples
- Sourwood tree
- Witchhazel
- Barberry 'Crimson Pigmy'
- Purple Beautyberry
- Dwarf Burning Bush
- Fothergilla 'Mt. Airy'
- Nandina 'Fire Power'
- Oakleaf Hydrangea
- Viburnums
- Virginia Sweetspire 'Henry's Garnet'
- Anemone vitifolia 'Robustissima'
- Asters
- Blue-Mist Shrub
- Boltonia
- Chrysanthemums
- Orange Coneflower
- Sedum 'Autumn Joy'
- Toadlily
- Ornamental Grasses
- Sweet Autumn Clematis
- Virginia Creeper
- Fall blooming crocus
- Ornamental Cabbage