



GARDENING TIPS FOR OCTOBER

Revised 11/19



Annuals & Perennials

- Mulch to retain moisture, control soil temperature and diseases. Read <http://www.walterreeves.com/gardening-q-and-a/pine-straw-mulch-annual-replacement/>
- Remove faded blooms on annuals and perennials.
- Cut brown flower stems to ground: coneflower, daylily, hosta, black-eyed Susan.
- Cut faded chrysanthemums and aster plants to 6 inches above ground.
- Wrap cheesecloth around sunflower heads to keep the birds away. Head is ready to harvest when the back turns brown.
- Clean up dead leaves and other debris to reduce over wintering of insects and diseases.
Read "Sanitation in the Garden" <http://extension.uga.edu/county-offices/cobb/agriculture-and-natural-resources/gardeners-corner.html> Select "Sanitation in the Garden"
- Apply preemergent to annual and perennial beds to reduce/control winter weeds.
- Top dress perennial beds with 1 to 2 inches of compost. Keep away from crowns of plants.
- Amend perennial planting beds with organic materials when establishing or renovating.
- Plant black-eyed Susan, daffodils, dianthus, foxglove, ground covers, hyacinths, larkspur, pansies, poppies, ornamental cabbage, Shasta daisy, snapdragons, and tulips. <http://www.walterreeves.com/landscaping/planting-pansies/>
- Plant peony crowns only 1½ to 2 inches below ground level. Deeper planting keeps peonies from blooming.
- Divide daylily, iris, lirioppe, peony, and phlox.
- Divide crowded beds and replant.
- Dig caladium bulbs, dahlia tubers, elephant ear corms, and ornamental sweet potato tubers for winter storage.
- Collect seeds, clean them and store in cool, dry place.
http://apps.caes.uga.edu/gafaces/?public=viewStory&pk_id=4867
- Get soil tests. Fall is the best time to add lime if it is required.

Fruits

- Harvest fruit as it ripens.
- Spray for insects and diseases, as required. Read the label for waiting time between spraying and harvest.
- Fall weed control around fruit trees is crucial. Weeds act as hosts to over wintering insects.
- Remove mummified fruit from trees and grapevines. Dispose of them. Do not compost.
- Remove fallen fruit from ground. - Dispose of it. Do not compost. Sanitation is one of the most effective methods of maintaining a healthy garden.
- Mulch area with 2-4 inches of pine straw or bark. Do not place mulch against trunk.
- Plant strawberries.
- Get soil tests. Fall is the best time to add lime if it is required.

Trees and Shrubs

- Remove faded blooms and diseased leaves from roses.
- Cut down and remove trees or shrubs attacked by ambrosia beetles.
- Plant ball and burlap or container grown roses from October thru February.
- Plant trees and shrubs. Be sure to remove synthetic burlap from ball and burlap plants. It does not decompose.
- Fertilize fall planted shrubs in the Spring.
- Transplant trees and shrubs. Read "Transplanting Trees & Shrubs"
https://www.extension.iastate.edu/forestry/publications/PDF_files/F-359.pdf
- Propagate limber limbed hydrangea and forsythia using the layering method.
- Refresh mulch, 3 inches deep, around trees and shrubs. Keep mulch away from trunks. If planting had a disease problem, remove old mulch to help prevent disease in future.
- Delay pruning since it causes plants to delay going dormant and can increase susceptibility to cold damage. OK to prune out dead material.
- Watch for fall webworm. <http://www.walterreeves.com/insects-and-animals/fall-webworm/>
- Check for various pests and diseases. Spray only if practical and required. **Sanitation is one of the most effective methods of maintaining a healthy garden.** Watch for these pests and diseases:

- Azaleas: Southern red mite.
- Arborvitae: Needle blight.
- Camellia: Southern red mite, petal blight.
- Crape myrtle: Aphids, ambrosia beetles.
- Holly: Spittlebugs, Southern red mite, scales.
- Indian Hawthorne: Leaf spot.
- Juniper: Needle blight.
- Leyland cypress: Bot canker, Seridium canker, needle blight.
- Oak: Orange-stripped oakworm, scale.
- Pine: Aphids, bark beetles.
- Roses: Remove black spot leaves from bush and ground.
- Rose Disease <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/04/10/rose-rosette-disease/7566221/>
- See annual rose maintenance schedule:
- <http://extension.uga.edu/county-offices/cobb/agriculture-and-natural-resources/gardeners-corner.html>
Select “Rose Maintenance Schedule
- Information on leaf spots: <http://ugaurbanag.com/content/leaf-spots>
Information on knockout rose problem read
<http://www.walterreeves.com/gardening-q-and-a/rose-rosette-disease/>
Read “Control of Common Pests of Landscape Plants” Bulletin 1074

<http://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=B1074&title=Control%20of%20Common%20Pests%20of%20Landscape%20Plants>

Review “Diagnosing Plant Problems” ”

- <http://extension.uga.edu/county-offices/cobb/agriculture-and-natural-resources/gardeners-corner.html> Select “Diagnosing Plant Diseases
Read “Drought Damage to Trees”
<https://ugaurbanag.com/drought-damages-stately-trees/>
- Perform a tree survey. Form available at http://www.gfc.state.ga.us/community-forests/management/trees-storm-safety/HomeownersRole_000.pdf
Get soil tests. Fall is the best time to add lime if it is required

The Georgia Forestry Commission’s on line service —“Ask the Arborist”. Complete a form and a certified arborist will answer questions and evaluate conditions.

<http://www.gfc.state.ga.us/community-forests/ask-the-arborist/index.cfm>

Turf

- Plant or renovate fescue.
- Fertilize established fescue.
- Do not fertilize Bermuda, centipede or Zoysia.
- Mow grass at proper height. Keep the blades sharpened.
- Raise mower height ½ inch for last mowing of Bermuda, centipede and Zoysia.
- Check for fall armyworm, and spittle bugs.
<http://www.walterreeves.com/insects-and-animals/army-worms-control-2/>
<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/ent/notes/O&T/lawn/note97/note97.html>
<https://www.clemson.edu/extension/publications/entomology/turf-ornamental/two-lined-spittlebug-to16.html>
- Apply lime as required per soil test.
- Spot apply postemergent herbicides as required.
- Apply preemergent herbicides for cool weather weeds. **Avoid areas of fescue to be seeded or just have been overseeded.**
- Remove fallen leaves since they will smother turf. Compost or shred leaves and use as mulch.
- For detailed information on turf care and diseases go to: www.georgiaturf.com Select Cultural Practices, Management Calendar or Pest Management.

Vegetables

- Harvest squash, pumpkins, peppers, tomatoes and sweet potatoes before they are damaged by frost. Harvest vegetables regularly to prolong production.

- Plant cabbage, garlic, lettuce, onions, radishes, spinach and gourmet salad greens: arugula, endive, escarole, radicchio, mache, and watercress.
- Water vegetables, if required.
- Collect herbs after dew has dried.
- Mulch to control weeds.
- Clean harvested rows immediately to prevent insect and disease buildup. Read “Sanitation in the Garden”
- Sow a cover crop in beds that will not be planted.
- Check for various beetles and bugs. Spray as required. Read the label for waiting time between spraying and harvest.
- Keep a logbook of problems so they can be prevented next year.
- Get soil tests. Fall is the best time to add lime if it is required.
- Information on insects and diseases, see
http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/C%201054_1.PDF

WATER On March 8, 2018, The Director of Georgia Environmental Protection Division lifted the Drought Level 1 declaration. Outdoor irrigation is permitted 7 days a week before 10AM and after 4PM.

For more information or further clarification please review the [frequently asked questions](#).

We encourage customers to conserve our water resources. Information on indoor and outdoor water conservation can be found on the [Water Efficiency Program pages](#). Cobb County Water System has free conservation kits and comprehensive education resources on how to use water efficiently indoors and outdoors.

Read “Best Management Practices for Landscape Water Conservation”
<http://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.cfm?number=C873>

- Water slowly and deeply. Deep watering encourages root growth.
- Use drip irrigation or soaker hoses. They use 50% less water than sprinklers.
- Check your irrigation system. (1) Is the timer set correctly? (2) Are all the nozzles working? (3) Are all the nozzles the same type? There is a significant variance in water applied between rotary sprinklers and spray heads.
- Set a timer and/or use a rain gauge when watering the lawn or garden.
- Check outdoor faucets, sprinklers and hoses for leaks. Replace washers as required.
- Select plants that are drought tolerant and have low water needs. Group plants with similar water requirements in the same zone. For a listing see
<http://www.ecoterrallandscape.com/cgi-bin/ViewTopic.pl?Topic=00-061506dt>
- Use a rain barrel. For instructions to build one:
<http://www.bhg.com/gardening/yard/tools/make-a-rain-barrel-save-water/>
- Save water and use it wisely. Don’t water the lawn on windy days. Water plants, if required, applying one inch of water per week. **Observe current Georgia watering restrictions.**

Check with your local water system to determine if they have more restrictive regulations.

Fire

Outdoor fires are permitted from October 1 thru April 30. For additional information and restrictions:

https://cobbcounty.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=5297:outdoor-burning&catid=535&Itemid=2046

Screen down for this period’s restrictions.

Environment

- Non-native invasive plants are a problem in Georgia and the Southeast. Its not only kudzu, Chinese privet, and golden bamboo. Become aware of these exotic pest plants and what you can do to inhibit them.
<http://www.gaepcc.org> Click on plant list
http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/fia/manual/Nonnative_Invasive_Plants_of_Southern_Forests.pdf

- Protect the environment, watersheds and sewer system by the proper disposal of grease, hazardous household products and pesticides. Go to http://cobbcounty.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2325&Itemid=1323
- Dispose of pesticides correctly. <http://www.walterreeves.com/tools-and-chemicals/pesticides-disposing>

Other

- To control next year's Japanese beetles, apply an insecticide now to control the grubs.
 - Fall is the best time to kill fire ants. Treat as required. Additional information: <http://growinggeorgia.com/features/2011/09/fall-fire-ant-killing-time/>

The key to reducing problems with soil insects in the garden is to keep the site clean. Frequent cultivation will help reduce grubs, nematodes and weeds. Read Sanitation in the Garden

- <http://extension.uga.edu/county-offices/cobb/agriculture-and-natural-resources/gardeners-corner.html> Select "Sanitation in the Garden"
- Keep a logbook of problems so they can be prevented next year.
- Analyze your landscape and its microclimates. <http://www.ugaurbanag.com/content/microclimate>
- Apply 2-3 inches of mulch to reduce evaporation, to control weeds, and to moderate soil temperatures. Shredded leaves are good mulch.
- Control kudzu, poison ivy, honeysuckle and ivy with herbicides. Plants are beginning to pull nutrients from leaves into roots thus increasing effectiveness of herbicides.
- Start adding leaves and other materials to the compost pile. Do not add weeds with ripen seed heads. Seeds remain viable and will germinate next year when compost is used.
- Collect seedpods for craft projects.
- Watch for ladybugs, kudzu bugs and boxelder bugs in home.
- <http://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.cfm?number=B1412>
- Before bringing patio plants indoors examine them for insects, and move plants into shade for two weeks when night temperatures are in the mid-50's. If necessary, trim woody plants back by one-fourth to help them fit in the home.
- Start paperwhites in pots for blooms in Nov/Dec.
- Start giving poinsettias 14 hours of darkness and 10 hours bright light each day for holiday blooms.
- Pesticide storage: properly label, store in locked cabinet, keep from freezing.
- Learn about the plant nutrients found in soil and air and how they are utilized by plants. <http://www.ncagr.gov/cyber/kidswrld/plant/nutrient.htm>

Visit us at the Marietta Farmers Market the last Saturday of the month in October

Specific instructions available from the Extension Office: planting and care of annuals, perennials, trees, and shrubs; pest, disease and weed control; turf management, and pruning. Call us at 770 528-4070.

For a soil test, bring 2 cups of dry soil to the Extension Office. Cost is \$9.00 per sample, payable by cash, check or credit card.



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EXTENSION

Cobb County