

Tips to Keep Your Landscape Vibrant Well Into Fall

Don't despair that summer is winding down, you can still have a vibrant landscape that you will be able to enjoy well into the fall. Here is a quick late-summer upkeep guide to keep your outdoor living space beautiful. The hot summer weather can take a toll on your lawn causing problem areas from low water supply, insects, or disease. Identify any trouble spots and address them accordingly to prevent the issue from spreading. When mowing, cut "just enough;" longer grass can provide insulation and also reduce water loss. In addition to your lawn, water your garden regularly, but don't drown your plants, which can cause rot. Many of us have seen late summer landscaping

that looks overgrown. To avoid this, lightly prune shrubs, pull weeds from the roots, clear debris from beds, and deadhead your flowers, both annuals and perennials. In fact, this is a great time for cut flowers, so bring some inside for decorating. In addition to the way your landscaping looks now, it's also time to think ahead. By mid to late August, stop fertilizing roses, this gives them a chance to wind down before winter. However, continue to fertilize Chrysanthemums and other fall blooming plants. This is also the time to plant flower bulbs. While most of your efforts will not appear in all their glory until next spring, there are a few fall flowering

bulbs like the autumn crocus that will produce blooms all autumn long. Remember to dump any standing water to prevent breeding mosquitos. Remove fallen fruit from trees to avoid rot and disease. If you compost, continue to add and turn your compost and only use healthy plant cuttings. Keeping on top of things now will ensure a smooth, easy transition into fall. Next month we will turn our sights to seeding, aeration, and preparing for the cooler weather to come.



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Jeffrey Tidwell
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Nicholas Shevland
Financial Advisor

55 Cascade Lane
Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971
302-644-6632
866-501-1943

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