

Suburban Gardener

What To Do In Garden As Frost Draws Near

By BETTY FRANKEL
Special Writer

Sunny days and cool nights are the order of things in fall. Frost warnings may be posted any night now.

If the gardener has on hand a supply of large cartons, old sheets, or even heavy paper or brown grocery bags, he'll be prepared to protect tender annuals from early frosts. Bloom time thus is prolonged for several weeks.

Areas most susceptible to frost damage are low spots that cold air flows down into. Least liable to injury are areas near the house that are warmed by heat radiating from the building, especially areas beneath sheltering overhangs.

garden or on a porch or patio. Before bringing them indoors, inspect them for disease pests.

Take cuttings of geraniums, coleus, begonias and other bedding plants to provide plants for indoor decoration or to provide a supply of plants for next year's garden. Also, small plants of these and annuals such as dwarf marigolds can be potted and brought inside for a few weeks of indoor color.

Bulbs of gladiolus, lily, and other tender plants should be lifted and brought in and stored until next spring. Lift Dahlia tubers after the first killing frost.

This is the season to plant evergreens of the "hoedie" type. This job should be completed by mid-October at the latest.

BRING IN house plants that have spent the summer in the SEPTEMBER IS the ideal time

to divide and transplant overgrown clumps of perennial plants such as peonies, poppies, bleeding heart, phlox, and lilies.

Lily bulbs should be planted as soon as the bulbs are available. Some imported bulbs do not arrive in time for fall planting, but this is the time to plant other lily bulbs.

September is the time to plant the little bulbs of crocus, scillas, snowdrops, and other dainty spring hardfingers. Plant daffodils and narcissus bulbs and hyacinths.

Purchase tulips, but wait to plant them until the latter part of October.

Buy some bulbs for forcing indoors. Paper-white narcissus are never-fail, and hyacinths are easy, too. Others to try include lily-of-the-valley and tulips.



THE SPECIES of forget-me-not named alpestris is the perfect companion for May-flowering tulips. Blue flowers on foot-long stems appear with the tulips and underneath them.

IT'S TOO LATE in the season to plant seeds of perennials, unless you have a cold frame. If a frame is available, the seeds can be planted late in fall.

They will stay dormant over winter and germinate in early spring.

Annuals that are hardy can be seeded in late fall in the open garden, even on top of frozen ground. They, too, will begin growth at the first sign of spring warmth. In this category are California poppy, bachelor button, cosmos, zinnia, larkspur, poppies, chinese plinks, calendula, snapdragons, sweet alyssum, and sweet peas.

This is a good time of year to take a critical look at the garden and landscaping with an eye to improvement. The mistakes or omissions may be more obvious now than they will appear to be next spring, and this may be just the time to make the needed changes.

Forget-Me-Nots Bloom With Tulips

When you think of planting tulip bulbs, think also of planting seeds of forget-me-nots that are the perfect underplanting for tulips of any hue.

Fall planted seeds pop up early in spring and flowers appear in May, along with those of the May-flowering tulips. The soft blue of the forget-me-nots cannot be equalled for its ability to set off the bright tulip colors.

Since tulips bloom best in a sunny place, the forget-me-nots to bloom beneath them, must be chosen for a similar situation. Best to buy the species named alpestris because unlike most forget-me-nots, it thrives in sun.

For a foot-high brilliant blue underplanting, order seeds of the blue-flowered form. If you prefer mixed colors, order the mixture and expect flowers of white and rose as well as shades of blue. However, if you choose the mixture, be careful of the shade of pink tulips you plant for bloom atop the forget-me-nots.

Just as tulip bulbs need only to be planted, so the seeds of forget-me-nots need only to be sprinkled on top of the soil.

Door Makes Roomy Desk

Want to encourage the back-to-schoolers in your family to hit the books? Give them desk space with lots of elbow room.

One very simple method is to buy a ready-made flush wood door, rest it on a horizontal support attached to the wall, and suspend the outer corners on chains attached to either a center ceiling hook, or one on each side if preferred.

With a 2x2-inch piece the same length as the door-width, and in the same finish, along the wall 30" from the floor—or lower for smaller fry. Screw in a heavy hook, or hooks, to a ceiling joist, and attach chains at the outer corners of the desk. The solid door provides a handsome, sturdy working surface.

For the more ambitious handyman, shelving or wood file dividers may be attached to the desk above or below the working surface.

If extra strength is needed, you can install diagonal braces, made from 2x4s, between the baseboard and the outer corners of the desk.

Plan Sept. 27 Pentathlon At Wonderland

Sept. 27 is a special day for Observant communities. Saturday morning at 10 a.m., a newly developed physical fitness pentathlon will be conducted on the Wonderland parking lot, Plymouth at Middle Belt, in Livonia.

All youngsters, from six to 18 years of age are invited and urged to take part.

The pentathlon, an athletic event consisting of five activities, has been especially designed by the AAU to give boys and girls a chance to try their skill in such things as push-ups, pull-ups, standing broad jumps, baseball throws, etc. Assisting in this event will be the Livonia Jaycees.

Ready Tools For Spring Gardening

Before you put your garden tools away for winter, ready them for spring. First inspect them.

Are they in need of cleaning? Are the handles split or rough in spots? Do the tools need sharpening? Are screws or bolts loose? Can the hand tools be found if the grass is a bit high?

Once you've assembled your tools and inspected them to find what's wrong, the cleaning process is simple.

Scrape off small areas of soil that adhere to tools but wash off, under a strong stream of water from a faucet, the larger chunks — it's easier.

HANDLES of such tools as shovels or hoes may be in such bad shape that they need replacement. Take the blade of the tool to your local hardware store for a new handle. Rough spots in otherwise good handles need only sanding with first course, then finer sand paper to make them easier on the hands.

Blades of such tools as grass whips often loosen from use. It takes only a mumble or two to tighten the screws that hold them to the handle.

Sharpening the cutting edges of tools before you store them in fall saves valuable time in

spring when every part of the garden needs care at once.

Fites are used to sharpen large, heavy tools like shovels, but spades and hoes are more easily sharpened on a carbide-tipped wheel.

USE A whetstone to sharpen a sickle and an oilstone to sharpen pruning shears. Saws are best sharpened by professionals.

Sharp tools make garden chores easier to do and quicker to finish. Furthermore, the gardener will tire less easily when using sharp tools and have more pride in his work if tools are clean.

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