

Fall Ideal Time To Plant Many Evergreens, Bulbs

Autumn is an ideal time to do much planting you missed during the spring gardening rush, according to the American Association of Nurserymen. This is a time of dormancy when newly planted trees and shrubs can gain strength for the growing season to come. Fall is an especially good time for planting coniferous evergreens. Most deciduous woody plants can be moved when their leaves are well-colored or dropping. Spring-flowering bulbs, such as crocus, narcissus and tulips, also can be planted now.

EVERGREENS SHOULD always be moved with a good ball of soil attached to their roots, never bare-rooted. And care should be taken that the roots

don't dry out. In preparing for planting, dig a hole of adequate depth and considerably wider than the root ball. After placing the evergreen in the hole, loosen the burlap at the top and push it down into the sides of the hole. It needn't be removed since it will soon rot away. Topsoil mixed with peat moss, humus or other organic matter should then be filled in around the ball.

Pack the soil down firmly to make a saucer-like depression around the ball. Fill the depression with water several

times and then fill the hole with top soil to grade level, leaving a shallow depression for later watering. In the final step spread a mulch over the surface soil.

WHEN PLANTING a small deciduous tree with bare roots, first dig a hole a foot wider and deeper than the current root system. Improve soil by adding decayed organic matter such as compost, peat moss, leaf mold or old manure. Mix it with underloam, being sure to break all lumps

and remove large stones. Next, cut off any dead and damaged roots but be careful not to permit the drying of such roots in the process.

Spread the roots in the hole, working fertile porous soil among them. Be sure not to twist or break them. When the hole is half filled, tread the soil firmly while keeping the trunk of tree in an upright position. Add more soil until the hole is filled except for a shallow depression for watering. Shallow depressions should be made

and then filled with soil twice weekly. If it seems to be getting dry three or four inches down, soak it to a depth of eight or nine inches and then leave it unwatered until it again approaches a similar stage of dryness. Do this for one fall growing season.

A TASTEFUL CHOICE of garden ornaments can lend a new note of interest and dramatic impact to a lawn. But whether it's an elegant fountain or a simple paving-stone walk, it should be an integral part of the landscaping scheme, not an obvious afterthought.

A garden ornament generally looks best when it forms a focal point such as at the end of a garden path, in a corner of a lawn where paths meet, in the middle of a little garden, or near a garden pool. It shouldn't be placed as an exhibit but rather as a foil or point of contrast with the living plants in the garden. A stone sundial, seat, foun-

tain or birdbath blends particularly well with plants of rose, pink, lavender, or mauve coloring. A sundial set amidst China roses, lavender or purple Aubrietia, for example, makes a charming traditional garden display.

In a small formal garden, a sundial or birdbath usually is placed in the center. They are often raised and surrounded by paving stones. Low-growing plants, such as thyme, pinks and others, look well around the base.

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Rock Gardening Has Suburban Comeback

Rock gardening, one of grandmother's favorite hobbies, is making a steady comeback with young moderns. The informal, natural appearance of rock gardens makes good contrast with contemporary architecture and is right at home in a period or traditional setting.

While the main floral glory of rock gardens comes in spring and summer, new construction work can be done now.

A natural rock garden is one solution to the problem of how to landscape a piece of rocky

ground. Before rearranging anything, examine the site and any plants already growing naturally there.

Some native perennials, ferns and wildings, may be suitable for retaining, and their light shade they provide can be a distinct advantage to the new plants you add.

DIG OUT ALL unwanted growth and coarse herbage and prune those trees and shrubs you want to keep. Mix the soil deeply with decayed organic material and bonemeal.

Fertilizer is not necessary, since most rock garden plants prefer lean soil to one that is decidedly rich. Rake out eroded rock crevices and fill them with good soil. Deepen and fill shallow ones.

You can get inspiration for plantings in the rocky areas of nearby woods, mountains and hillsides. In general, rely on plants native to the general region and on those known to thrive locally without much pampering.

It's harder work but you also can create even a flat setting into one that looks naturally rocky. Of course, slopes, hillsides or naturally contoured valleys lend interest to constructed sites so should be included if available.

very important. Porous rock is congenial to plants and weathers quickly and well. Hard sandstones, millstones and most limestones are excellent to use. Look for porous natural rock outcroppings to see how you can arrange yours so they seem more natural.

Rock formations are usually in stratified layers. Digging this general pattern allows for stair-stepping which, in turn, provides soil pockets for the plants.

Arrange stones so they look like one big burlied rock system. To do this, limbed rocks a third to halfway into the soil and pack the soil firmly under and between them.

If one rock lies upon another, the lower rock should be tilted slightly toward the supporting soil behind it.

A SELECTION of dwarf trees and shrubs, especially evergreens, will form an overall framework for your garden scheme. Dwarf yews, junipers and spruce are good choices. For nice winter effects, choose such evergreen plants as the perennial candytuft, rock roses, silver saxifages, wellflowers, thymes, primroses and sedums. All form lustrous foliage in the winter after spectacular floral displays in the warmer months.

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