

# Welcome!

Bates Nursery Botanical Boot Camp  
Educational Webinar Series

## Garden To-Do List:

**September**

With Ben Trest

September 1, 2020

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Please **mute** your microphone

We will take questions after the lecture via the **chat box**

**Thank you** for joining us!

# Garden To-Do's: September



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Making a list for the transition into Fall

# Soil and Bed Preparation

## Top Dressing and Soil Amendment

- Great time to add nutrients and organic matter to veggie gardens
- **Earthmix Supernatural** and **Magic Mushroom** Composts are ideal, and made in-house!
- Amend soil in landscape beds as you plant, mix 30-50% with existing soil
- **Earthmix Landscape** and **Pfines** are great for conditioning soil

## Mulching

- Remove excessive, old, and heavy mulch before adding more.
- Add enough new mulch to give beds even color
- Try not bury plant stems and roots under mulch



# Seeding (Veg and Lawn)

## Starting Vegetable Seeds

- Good time to start fall vegetable seedlings
- Use **Earthmix Proganix-I** or any seed starting mix for planting seedlings



## Lawn Aeration

- “Hollow core” aeration reduces compaction and increases soil contact for increased germination
- Key first step to overseeding lawns

## Seeding Cool-Season Grasses

- Recommend seeding tall fescue in September-December
- May top-dress with light soil to increase soil contact



Rule of Thumb:

Plant container-grown material asap, don't hold until fall! Your soil reduces drought and heat stress.

# General Maintenance



## Late-season Weed Control

- Use herbicide labeled for specific weeds or hand pull
- Crabgrass and other summer annuals will crash on their own

## Fresh Mulch for Color

- Great time to add fresh mulch for fall-spring color
- Less is more, no need to have mulch excessively deep (4+ inches)

## Watering!

- Fall is coming, but hot weather means no break from watering schedule
- Water heavily on initial planting, then allow to dry before deep soaks

# Cut-Backs

## Perennials and Annuals

- As herbaceous perennials fade, cut at base for cleaner beds (eg. hostas)
- Annuals can be cut at base or pulled out all together (eg. petunias, veg)

## Shrubs

- Deciduous, summer blooming, shrubs can begin to be cut back (eg. spirea)
- If you are unsure, leave until after frost/winter to avoid damage

Rule of Thumb:

Cut-backs in fall should be on summer bloomers only.

Avoid evergreens if possible.



# Planting

Is it ok to plant? YES!

- If you can get plants in the ground and water regularly, you should have few issues.

Why is fall ideal for planting?

- Plants may have fewer/no leaves, making transport less stressful
- Cooler weather means less environmental and drought stress
- Trees and shrubs tend to spread roots in fall and winter, meaning quicker establishment.

Recipe for Success

- Get plants into ground asap after purchase
- Water deeply on initial planting (sometimes called “mudding in”)
- If soil begins to dry, water deeply again, then continue on this schedule

# Planting: Fall Colors!

## Fall flowering/foliage annuals

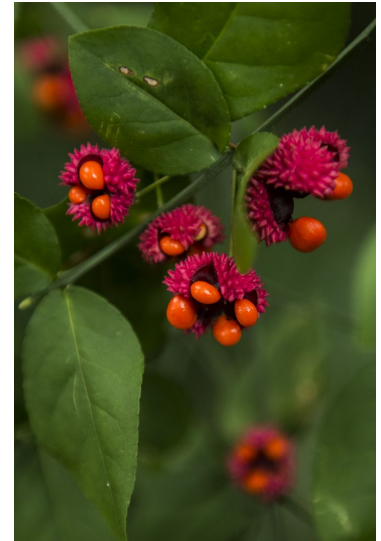
- Flowers: Pansies, Mums, Asters
- Foliage: Ornamental veggies, ivy...

## Fall color shrubs and perennials

- Leaf color: Maples, Black Gum, Blueberry, Fothergilla, Spirea
- Fruit (berries): Hollies, Viburnum, Red Twig Dogwood (stems), Hearts-a-bustin!

## Ornamental grasses

- Seed heads can last well into the winter
- Fountain grasses, muhly grass, pampas, switchgrass



Fun Fact:

Trees and shrubs establish roots as they drop leaves.

Called *senescence*, sugars move from leaves down into the roots!

# Thank You!

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## Questions?

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Feel free to bring your questions with you to Bates Nursery, our  
Landscape Specialists will be happy to assist you!

