

Fall Planting is Best!

Did you know that turfgrass, spring-blooming bulbs, perennials, trees, and shrubs can all be effectively planted in the fall?

It's true! In fact, fall has distinct planting benefits. Cooler air temperatures are easier on both plants (and gardeners). The soil is still warm, allowing roots to grow until the ground freezes. In spring, plants don't grow until the soil warms up.

Fall usually has more good days for planting than spring does, when rain and other unpredictable weather can make working the soil difficult, if not impossible. And have you noticed that this time of year is usually when garden centers have a great selection of inventory for fall planting? Now is the time to buy!

Fall planting avoids transplant shock from summer heat, but be sure to allow roots time to re-establish before the shock of cold weather. Always plant trees and shrubs at their natural soil lines. Keep newly planted trees or shrubs well watered until the ground freezes so they get a good start before going into full dormancy during winter. Watering fall-planted trees and shrubs during winter dry periods will greatly increase the odds of planting success.

Let us know if you have any questions about planting this fall. We'll help you get a head start on a great landscape next spring.



So Mulch to Like

Preparation in the fall is the key to a healthy, thriving flower or garden bed in the spring. And the best preparation you can do before winter sets in is mulching!

Who doesn't like the look of a flower bed that is mulched? But mulching is about much more than appearance.

MULCHING HAS MANY BENEFITS:

- Keeps soil and roots a consistent temperature, especially important for protecting plants from early fall cold snaps or too-early warm-ups in the spring
- Retains soil moisture
- Suppresses weeds, both by denying the sunlight that triggers germination of seeds, and by acting as a physical barrier between seeds and soil
- Fertilizes the soil (in the case of organic mulches like compost, manure, and aged wood chips)
- Encourages earthworms, which come to the soil surface in the evening to feed on decomposing organic matter

Rejuvenating flower beds with freshened edging and new mulch will go a long way in beautifying your property for the upcoming dormant months. It's a great way to "tuck in" your yard for the winter.

