



Late Summer Gardening Checklist

Gardening season is not over!!

1. Get weeds under control. It may be tempting to let them go; after all, we're nearing the end of summer and they're not too busy right now. However, if you let them be, they will re-seed and you will have twice as many to contend with next spring! Come in and visit with us, and we'll help you figure out the best plan of attack.

2. Deadhead perennials. Many of our perennials will continue blooming well into fall, but need to be dead-headed in order to re-bloom. Also, it just looks prettier.

3. Critique your garden and yard as a whole. Right now, your garden is in 'full swing'. Everything is about as big as it's going to get (this year), and with the rains we've been having, the colors are as brilliant as you could hope for. Step back and really look at your garden, as if for the first time. Ask yourself these questions:

Are your plants in the right place? Are they thriving, or are they missing something? Do they appear wiped out from the late afternoon sun, or do they appear to be reaching for more sun through the shady spots? Is there a particular plant that seems to always need water, or one that seems wet all the time? Is there a plant that you can hardly see because the plant next to it is taking over, or everything around it is the same color? It is not unheard of to move plants – especially perennials. I am constantly moving plants around in my garden. It helps keep things fresh, and ensures that the plants are in the best location. Though you should make a plan now, you will need to wait until the daytime temperatures cool a bit to move your perennials, and wait until next spring if you plan to move trees or shrubs. (While it is a great time to plant trees and shrubs right now, they should be dug up and transplanted when dormant, in the early spring. Also, the more established the plant is, the less likely it is to survive, so take extra caution when moving established plants!) Once the weather cools, dig up and move any perennials that you've decided to relocate. As long as you water and mulch them well, they'll survive the winter.

Do you need to fill in any gaps? Now that everything is in the right place, are there any holes in your garden? Late summer is an excellent time to plant, and we have a large selection of plants to choose from. Need helping choosing just the right thing? Take a picture or two of the garden and bring it in. We'll help you find something that will look great, and do well in your location.

Do you have blooms for every season? It is very common for gardeners to shop and plant at the same time of year, every year. This usually results in a whole lot of flowers in late spring, and then nothing for the rest of the year. Give your garden a little more interest and punch by selecting plants that will flower at

different times. We have lots of great options for early spring and late summer blooming plants. Again, snap a few pictures for us and we'd be glad to help you find something that will work well in your location.

4. Replace spent annuals. Many annuals that we planted earlier in the season are starting to look leggy, or have just pooped out from the late summer heat. Don't be afraid to rip them out and replace them with something new and fresh. We have a great selection of late summer and fall blooming annuals to really jazz up your garden!

5. Refresh your container gardens. As with our gardens, many of our containers were planted for one season's splendor, and are now looking sad! Let us help you refresh your container gardens. Often times, it's only one or two plants that are bringing the whole display down. Think outside the box when you're replacing those plants. Grasses, mums, salvia, and snapdragons are just a few examples of great late blooming plants for containers. Need some help? Take a photo or bring in your container, and we can help fill it! We'll show you how easy it can be to create a professional container garden that looks great well into fall.

6. Fertilize blooming plants. Your late summer blooming flowers will need to be fed in order to continue producing into the late fall. Your veggies will also need to be regularly fertilized as long as they continue producing. Visit us for tips on the best fertilizers for your needs!