

Horticultural Points of Interest – October 2018

- **Planting Trees and Shrubs**

- Many Nurseries offer discounts at this time of year
- October through much of November are prime times to plant Trees and Shrubs
 - Evergreen Trees and Shrubs grow best if they are in the ground by the end of October
 - Not the best time for Perennials
 - Water thoroughly and before putting the plant in the Hole as well, if soil is dry at Depth

- **Planting Spring Bulbs**

- Planting Time
 - Mid-October to Mid-November for Zone 6
 - October for Zone 5
 - Applying Bulb Tone or equivalent after planting is Helpful
 - Bone meal is not so helpful and can attract Animal Pests
- Common Bulbs and their Requirements

Latin Name	Common Name	Light Requirements	Soil Moisture	Critter Resistant
Allium	Flowering Onion	Sun	Average to Dry	Yes
Anemone Blanda	Windflower	Sun/Part Sun	Average to Dry	No
Camasia	Quamash	Sun	Moist to Average	No
Chionodoxa	Glory of the Snow	Sun/Part Sun	Average	No
Crocus	Crocus	Sun/Part Sun	Average to Dry	No
Eranthis	Winter Aconite	Part Sun/Shade	Moist to Average	Yes
Fritillaria	Fritillaria	Sun/Part Sun	Average to Dry	Yes
Galanthus	Snowdrops	Part Sun/Shade	Moist to Average	Yes
Hyacinth	Hyacinths	Sun	Average	No
Ipheion	Star Flower	Sun/Part Sun	Average to Dry	Yes
Iris-Dwarf	Dwarf Iris	Sun/Part Sun	Average to Dry	No
Leucojum	Spring Snowflake	Sun/Part Sun	Moist to Average	Yes
Muscari	Grape Hyacinth	Sun/Part Sun	Average	No
Narcissus – Cyclamineus	Cyclamineus Daffodils	Sun/Part Sun	Average	Yes
Narcissus – Most	Daffodils	Sun	Average	Yes
Scilla	Scilla	Sun/Shade	Average	Yes
Tulip	Tulip	Sun	Average	No

- Critters and New Bulbs
 - Bulbs not Critter Resistant such as tulips, grape hyacinths, crocus and others may need protection from squirrels and chipmunks after planting
 - Can locate newly planted Bulbs and will dig up and eat
 - Plant with lots of pepper, a commercial product such as Critter Ridder or cover with hardware cloth until the ground freezes

- **Fall Garden Shut Down**

- Decorative Seed heads can be left in place depending on personal Taste
 - Birds appreciate the seeds
- Trim Flower Stems or Don't Trim Flower Stems
 - Plants susceptible to Crown rot should not be trimmed back
 - Stems wick water out of the Crown Region & protect Crown
 - Xeric plants in General should not be cut back
 - Usually recommended that Epimediums are left in place until early spring
 - In many cases Stems are Hollow & if cut short water goes down into the Crown through the hollow Stems (Bee Balm and others)
 - Stems are usually solid at leaf Axils, so does not happen with adequate stem lengths
 - Irises should be cut off low to Ground
 - Particularly Bearded and other rhizomatous Irises
 - Iris borers lay eggs on the leaves
 - Cutting them off and disposing of the leaves as well as plant debris around the irises helps prevent the borers
 - Shrubs like Blue Mist Shrub and Butterfly bushes are best left with stems 3' long
 - Longer length leaves more buds in place to open in spring & improves winter survival
 - Cut back after substantial bud growth in spring
 - Cut off Stems of Perennials like Penstemons that Produce clumps of basal leaves in Late Summer
 - Cut off and dispose of plant material that shows disease

- **Leaves and Pine Needles**

- Don't Give away or Burn
- Shred and use as Top Dressing on Gardens particularly for Woodland or Perennial Gardens
 - Great for the Garden & Improves the Soil
 - Can Combine with Compost as a top Dressing
- Many Leaf Blowers will also Vacuum up and Shred Leaves
- Exception: If Voles are a Problem, do NOT Cover the bed with Leaves.
 - Voles feel Protected by the leaf Cover and will do considerable more damage with that cover in place
 - Instead clean surface debris out of the bed and compost the shredded leaves elsewhere
 - Commercial Repellents with Castor Oil such as Mole Away can be sprinkled on the bare ground and do help prevent Damage
 - Castor oil for Human use is De-scented and is not useful for this Purpose