



September in the Garden

This month in your garden:

- **Fall soon will be in the Air.** Refresh container gardens with snapdragons, dianthus, mums, petunias, lobelia, crotons & more.
- **Get your transplants in your fall vegetable garden.** Early September is your last chance to get tomatoes and peppers in the ground. Cool-season vegetables such as cauliflower, broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, kale, mustard, lettuce, and kohlrabi can be planted September through January, look for seeds or transplants to add to your garden.
- **Mulch** -Mulching keeps plant roots cooler, weed seeds at bay, and conserves water. Apply 3” deep around trees and shrubs. Add compost around annuals, herbs, vegetables. Do not mound mulch against the base of a plant, this only invites problems for plant.
- **Pests** -Keep an eye out for pests as well as beneficial insects (such as lady bugs which eat aphids). Blast off sucking insects (aphids, mealybugs, etc.) with water and/or spray with insecticidal soap.
- **Hummingbirds – It is migration time!** Keep hummingbird feeders clean, filled, and in a shady area to encourage visitors.
 - **Recipe for Nectar:** Bring 4 cups of water to a boil, add 1 cup of granulated sugar, stir until dissolved. Allow to cool, fill feeders. Keep excess sealed in refrigerator.(no need to add red food coloring)
 - **Natural nectar sources for hummingbirds:** Turk’s cap, Hamelia, Shrimp plant, Firespike, Salvia, Lobelia (cardinal flower), Mexican oregano, Pride of Barbados, Anisacanthus, and cigar plants. These are all hummer magnets.
- **Birds** - Change water regularly in bird baths and keep them full.
- **Flowers** - If you want wildflowers, now is the time to plant the seeds. Bluebonnets, Mexican hat, Drummond phlox, gaillardia, liatris, bluebells, lemon horsemint (*Monarda citriodora*), and plains coreopsis (*Coreopsis tinctoria*) are a few that will add color to your garden and bring the butterflies.