

November



Fall Tips:

Fall is a great time to plant trees, shrubs, bulbs, perennials, grass seed and sod. Plants that are planted in the fall enjoy cooler temperatures and ideal growing conditions that allow roots ample time to grow into the surrounding soil. Mike's Garden Center carries only the healthiest, most beautiful plants. Ornamental grasses provide wonderful interest at this time of year.

- Spring blooming fall bulbs are in stock at Mike's Garden Centers and now is the time to plant them. Plant iris, tulips, crocus, daffodils and many others for glorious spring color.
- Time to feed your plants with a good quality slow release plant food. We recommend fertilizing perennials and flowering shrubs and trees.
- Time to divide and transplant any of your perennials if necessary.
- Plant pansies (we have a variety of colors), ornamental cabbage and kale and other winter annuals if you want a good show over the cool months, plant these now.

Lawns:

- November is a great time to fertilize the lawn.
- Leaf season is here so gather them for mulching and composting.
- Now is also a good time to control weeds growing in the lawn, however you cannot weed kill and seed at the same time.

November Reminders:

- Stop by Mike's Garden Center and pick-up a beautiful plant or decoration for your Thanksgivings day gathering.
- Pick up your beautiful fall mums and holiday plants.
- Poinsettias arrive in late November.

THE BULB GARDEN:

NATURE'S SEASON EXTENDERS

Many people believe the flowering season starts in late spring and ends in early fall, but it can last much longer. There are a whole series of plants that bloom through the "off season." Most of the season's extenders are hardy bulbs.

Bulbs are curious plants. While other plants go dormant during winter, bulbs are actively growing, underground. Winter is when they send their roots deep into the soil and begin to sprout. Then, in the earliest spring, while all the other plants come into their prime, but bulbs lose their leaves and go fully dormant.

Bulbs are most often included in other flower beds. Rock gardens and abound with miniature ones: tulips, narcissi, crocus, and lilies find their way into just about every perennial border. But for those who love growing bulbs, there is nothing like giving them a garden of their own. From the earliest bulbs of late winter and spring to the alliums of early summer to a host of lilies throughout summer to fall-flowering bulbs of autumn, you can have bulbs in bloom almost every month of the year.

Any garden designed specifically to bulbs requires special planning, otherwise there will be short bursts of flowering followed by long periods with no blooms. Bulbs are classified according to their flowering season: late-winter and spring flowering, summer flowering and fall flowering.

Within each seasonal group, there are early, mid-season and late bloomers. Among spring-flowering bulbs, for example, late winter flowering bulbs, such as snowdrops and *Iris reticulata*, are followed by early spring bulbs such as Dutch crocus and Siberian squill. By mid to late season such bulbs as narcissi and tulips are blooming, which are followed very late season bulbs such as alliums. Within each bulb category, there are further divisions. Tulips, for example, are available in early, midseason, and late lilies. In fact, a bulb garden composed of only lilies can bloom right through the summer if care is taken in selecting varieties.

Once planted in a permanent spot, hardy bulbs require little care: Water well throughout the fall until the ground freezes to stimulate good root growth. In spring, as bulbs begin to bloom, work bulb fertilizer into the soil to stimulate at their bases. This will supply nutrition for the development of healthy bulbs and abundant blooms. After the flowers fade, clip off any developing seed pods. Take care not to cut back the foliage as long as it is still green; bulbs need these leaves to absorb energy. Leaves should only be removed in the early and removed once they begin to yellow: generally, in early summer for spring and fall-flowering bulbs and fall for summer-flowering ones. MIKE'S HAS A GREAT SELECTION OF FLOWERING BULBS TO CHOOSE FROM. Come in and let us help you with your bulb garden!