

President's Corner – October 2022

Fall is here and it's time to get your garden ready for cooler weather. There are still some tasks that will help sustain your garden now and prepare it for spring.

The **Missouri Botanical Garden (MBG)** indicates that ball and burlap trees and shrubs can still be planted in the ground, as can those grown in containers. They suggest digging a hole in an area 2 times the diameter of the root ball prior to planting and making sure to water and mulch them well. **MBG** notes that, for good blooms this winter, Christmas cactus, potted azaleas, and kalanchoe can stay outdoors until temperatures drop to about 40 degrees at night.

This is also the time to plant spring bulbs and late crop vegetables. Garden Design has a helpful article on what spring bulbs and vegetables to plant now:

https://www.gardendesign.com/autumn/planting.html?utm_source=article-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Plant-in-Fall-9-22-22

The **University of MN Extension** advises to “stop pruning, keep watering.” Pruning now may encourage new growth which won't be able to harden off (go dormant) before winter. They suggest you keep watering until the ground is frozen or you turn off your spigot for the winter.

This is also a time when you can overwinter your geraniums. There are several methods for doing this. Existing pots of geraniums can be brought in, plants can be dug up and planted in pots, the bare roots of the plant can be saved for next year, and finally, you can make cuttings of your plants. Each of these methods is described at this website: <https://empressof dirt.net/overwintering-geraniums/> More detailed information on keeping geranium bare roots over the winter can be found on the **Garden Gate Magazine** website: <https://www.gardengatemagazine.com/articles/how-to/all/how-to-overwinter-geraniums/>

If you are into crafts, you might enjoy drying flowers. **Kansas State University Extension** has a good video on how to successfully do this. You can find it here:

<https://kansashealthyyards.org/component/allvideoshare/video/drying-flowers-long-lasting-and-colorful?Itemid=101>

We've all had lasagna for dinner, but have you created a lasagna garden? If you are interested in this technique, now is the time to begin preparing your lasagna garden for next spring. This no digging, no tilling method may be just the solution for creating a new bed. Here is a how-to article from **MU Extension** on this technique: <https://extension.missouri.edu/news/lasagna-gardening-layers-and-layers-of-goodness-5767>

Some virtual programs that may be of interest to you are:

October 6 – 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. CDT *Grow With Us - Virtual: Spring Flowering Bulbs* offered by the **North Carolina Cooperative Extension**, Guilford County. Grow with Us – plant bulbs now to enjoy; Register for this event here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/grow-with-us-virtual-spring-flowering-bulbs-registration-336654270987>

October 18 - 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. *Using Fresh Produce.* What to do with excess produce like onions, cucumbers, tomatoes and more? Presented by the **University of Illinois Extension**. Register here: <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=26178>