

Gardener's Corner

October 2025

Although the weather is still warm, we can see cold weather coming soon. Now is the time to prepare your garden preparation for winter.

The **Missouri Botanical Gardens** has several tips and tasks that will help us get our gardens ready for colder weather. But first it should be noted that you can plant trees and shrubs through November. To ensure they remain healthy, new plantings should be watered thoroughly and mulched so they have protection throughout the winter. With newly planted and young trees, tree guards will help to protect against animal damage. Make certain you use the “donut” method of mulching trees and shrubs instead of the “volcano” method to prevent damage and girdling roots.

Remember to give plants adequate water throughout the dry fall. It isn't necessary to control for leaf spots on trees if noticeable. Infected leaves should be raked and disposed of to help prevent overwintering diseases.

Cut perennials about an inch above soil level as they start to die back. Some natives such as echinacea, rudbeckia and helianthus can be left as they provide a good source for wildlife. By mid-to-late October, get your daffodils and other spring bulbs planted. Planting among daylilies, ferns hostas, and ground covers can hide dying bulb foliage this spring.

Dig up non-hardy bulbs like dahlias, gladiolus, and cannas, as soon as leaves are killed by first frost or leaves turn yellow. Dry the bulbs under cover with air circulating and free from frost.

The big debate: is it goldenrod or ragweed that cause all those sneezes at this time of year? Here are three articles that will give some clarity to the question. The first is from **Friends of the Mississippi** website and has an article entitled *Goldenrod or ragweed: Which causes allergies and which benefits pollinators*. Find it at:

<https://fmr.org/updates/conservation/goldenrod-or-ragweed-which-causes-allergies-and-which-benefits-pollinators> The second is from **The Almanac**: *The good side of goldenrod (it's not ragweed)*, and can be found here: <https://www.almanac.com/good-side-goldenrod-its-not-ragweed>. Finally, from Northern Gardener, there is an article entitled *Ragweed versus goldenrod: Determining friend from foe*. It can be found at: <https://northerngardener.org/ragweed-vs-goldenrod-determining-friend-from-foe/>. All articles have great pictures of both plants. There is also information on how to grow goldenrod.

Don't forget about *Best of Missouri* at the **Missouri Botanical Garden** on October 9-11.

June 5, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM. *Ask the Experts About Edible Perennials*, a program given by experts at the **National Garden Bureau**. Register at:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cdkWXAtKS4S--THdXwqu6g#/registration
And be sure to check out their other Great Garden Webinars that can be accessed at
<https://ngb.org/great-garden-webinars/>

June 26, 11:00 AM-1:00 p.m. PM. *The Flight Garden at the National Air and Space Museum* is part of the Let's Talk Gardens series through the **Smithsonian Gardens**. It describes the revitalization of the Museum's garden. Register at:
https://smithsonian.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GSCtXMNcR96sgq0Tgale8A#/registration