



Johnson's Garden Talk

Lawn and garden information for the friends and customers of Johnson's Garden Centers

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Garden Tips

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Colorful Fall Foliage

What an autumn it has been for great color on fall foliage. It's outstanding this year because we've had perfect conditions for fall color—cool days, no freezes during October and good moisture (almost too much). There are also genetic differences that will give us some variation in color. Here is my list of top trees and shrubs for fall color this year.

Marty's Favorites:

- Red Maple varieties—Red Sunset, October Glory
- Sugar Maple varieties—Caddo, Legacy
- Chinese Pistache
- White Ash
- Green Ash
- Dwarf Burning Bush
- Red Spireas—especially Magic Carpet—very nice!
- Amur Maples—tree and shrub forms

Fallen Leaves

With the leaves now making a blanket on our lawns, be sure to either remove them by raking or mow over them with a mulching mower—a much easier way to deal with the leaves. This will add valuable organic material to the soil. Be sure to use Natural Guard Soil Activator which will aid in the breaking down of the leaf material. Soil Activator adds natural humates which naturally composts the organic matter in the lawn.

Enjoy Dutch Bulbs Indoors

Just for fun, plant an assortment of spring-flowering bulbs in to some 6-8" containers. Water the bulbs well then cover the pots with plastic to keep the bulbs moist. Place the potted bulbs in the garage or any other place they will remain cool for 12-14 weeks. Bring them inside in late February to enjoy an early spring!

Kill Spring Weeds NOW

Those tiny weeds that are starting to grow in your lawn will be at their peak next spring. Wait for a warm spell then use ferti•lome Weed-Out (liquid or granular) to kill those weeds now.

Piñon Wood

Be sure to stop by for piñon wood to burn outdoors in your chimenea. We have a good selection of wood for you to enjoy on those cool evenings on the patio.

Winterize Rose Bushes

Late November—around Thanksgiving—is the time to start thinking about winterizing your rose bushes. Wait until we have had temperatures in the teens or low 20s. The soil needs to be cool to stop the growth of the roses. My favorite way to protect roses is with the Warp's Rose Collar. This easy-to-use collar holds the cottonseed hulls (also my favorite mulch) around the graft to protect your rose bush until next spring.

A Blanket for Your Pansies

Cottonseed hulls also work well for helping pansies through the winter. Yes, pansies are winter-hardy but our cold, sunny, winter days will dry out the leaves.

Apply 2-3" of cottonseed hulls to keep the plants from drying out and to help them get a good start in the spring.