



# Johnson's Garden Talk

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

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September 2001



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## Garden Tips

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It's been a long, hot summer and we're all looking forward to cool fall weather. Don't miss this great opportunity to take advantage of Mother Nature's "Second Spring." Fall is the perfect time to plant many things in your landscape:

- trees and shrubs
- fescue seed/lawns
- winter-hardy pansies
- fall color items—mums, asters, ornamental kale and cabbage

Now's the time to plant some of your spring garden items, too. Plant iris, peonies, crocus, daffodils (or narcissus) and other small bulbs in September. Wait until October or November to plant tulips, but shop now for the best selection. Keep the tulip bulbs stored in a cool place until you are ready to plant them. We have an excellent selection of bulbs, corms and tubers in stock now.

What ever you are planting, make sure your soil is fertile and drains well. Have your soil tested at Johnson's and amend the soil according to the results. Everything you plant this fall will also benefit from being watered in with ferti•lome Root Stimulator.

Fall is the perfect time to plant trees and shrubs because the warm soil promotes rapid root development and because there are two cool seasons to get the plants established before having to deal with the heat and drought of Kansas summers. When planting, use ferti•lome Start-N-Grow slow release fertilizer in the planting hole, then water in with Root Stimulator.

Mulch newly planted trees and shrubs to help retain soil moisture and to keep soil temperature even through winter. Stake new trees to protect them from strong Kansas winds.

Fall is also the best time to feed established trees and shrubs. The warm soil allows for active root growth and rapid absorption of nutrients. This feeding helps plants recover from the pest and weather problems of summer and also helps to improve the plant's health next spring.

Apply ferti•lome Tree & Shrub Food to the soil surface around your plants and water in thoroughly. Fine tree roots extend far beyond the drip line, so apply Tree & Shrub Food well beyond that point.

Fall is prime time for fescue lawns! Fall is THE most important time to fertilize cool-season lawns.

Discontinue applying granular fertilizer to your rose bushes by the first of September. Water-soluble plant foods are OK, as they will promote flowering without pushing new growth. Stop deadheading roses at this time of year to help them prepare for their dormant period.

As fall approaches, crickets, spiders and other insects start looking for a winter home. To keep these pests outside, use ferti•lome Kill-A-Bug II containing permethrin. Spray a band around your foundation, windows and doors. For pest control indoors use ferti•lome Indoor/Outdoor Insect Spray.