



# Johnson's Garden Talk

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

## Johnson's Garden Talk

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## Garden Tips

**Marty Johnson**, President, Johnson's Garden Centers and Kansas Certified Nurseryman

### ***Fall is for Planting!***

I always look forward to this time of the year. Usually by early September the days are a little cooler, and our night time temperatures are also dropping. I know it can still be hot now but those cooler days are not far off.

The spring-flowering bulbs usually arrive the last week of August and the stores have stacks of ferti•lome Winterizer that reach to the ceiling. We are unloading trucks of fresh nursery stock, and the first of many loads of winter-hardy pansies are arriving. Yes ... fall is for planting!

### ***Cool Air ... Warm Soil***

The reason your fall gardening is so successful is that in the fall, the soil temperature is still warm, meaning good root growth. Our soil temperature right now is about as high as it has been all year, and our daytime temperatures are starting to drop. Plants are not under stress with these conditions.

### ***Fall-Planted Annuals***

In the fall, annual bedding plants such as winter-hardy pansies get established sooner. I know that we have a shorter growing season for annuals this time of the year, but we still have a couple of months until we have a hard killing freeze. Many years we can enjoy annuals until after Thanksgiving. Most years, pansies can bloom through much of the winter even with snow cover.

We are just now getting our first of many deliveries of pansies into the stores. *For a special price on pansies, see page 5.* Also look for petunias, alyssum and other cold tolerant annuals for fall color.

### ***Plant Perennials in the Fall***

Perennials also are quick to establish in the fall. We still have a good selection of perennial bedding plants at the stores. You'll be amazed at how much larger and how well your perennials will be next season after being planted in the fall. Most perennials need the cold temperatures to flower. You will gain a year by planting perennials in the fall.

### ***Seeding Fescue Lawns***

If your lawn is ready for seeding, and the weather forecast is favorable, by all means go ahead and get your fescue lawn planted this weekend. Many times when the temperatures are cool in late August or early September I have seeded fescue and within 4-5 days I am seeing the grass germinate; and in just over a week the grass is really coming up.

When seeding early make sure that you have the capability to keep the newly planted grass watered daily.

### ***The Best Grass Seed***

Every year we talk about buying only the best grass seed. I truly believe that at Johnson's, we do just that. The Gard'n-Wise Premium Fescue Blend is the only fescue that I would plant. With varieties that have done well in KSU's trials and with very few weed seeds, it also has a high germination percentage—up to 98%. *Check page 5 for our package price on Gard'n-Wise Premium Fescue Blend Seed!*

Yes, you will have weeds that will appear when you plant new seed. There are many weed seeds in your turf right now just waiting for you to rake your lawn so they can see the light of day. Those weed seeds love the ferti•lome New Lawn Starter and daily watering that you are giving your lawn and will grow along with your grass seed. Go ahead and let the weeds grow and then in October, use ferti•lome Weed-Out to eliminate them.

### ***ENJOY FALL!***

Enjoy the fall season ... go plant a tree ... then come by the stores on September 11th to get some patriotic tulips—FREE! Browse through the nursery, treat yourself to a new plant to enjoy, and have a great fall season!