



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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Seasonal Changes

One of the best things about living in the Midwest, or better yet, Kansas, is the four seasons that we are fortunate to have. About the time we are bored with one season and are wondering why we chose to live here, another season arrives and all is well for a while. We do have extremes in the weather. We have hot, cold, wet, dry, wind and whatever else nature seems to throw our way. Because we live in this "transition zone" we are fortunate to have many opportunities when it comes to gardening. Unlike only a short drive south of us, we do have the cold winters to give us the beautiful winter landscapes. Go much further north, and you get winter for 5-6 months. With this new season upon us, let's make the most of it in our garden. Let's look at where to start.

Jump Start Your Garden

Because the soil is warm, and usually moist this time of the year, almost anything we plant in our gardens will get off to a wonderful start. We have an excellent selection of nursery stock ready now for planting. By planting this fall you not only get great root growth, you also get a jump on spring and those spring-flowering shrubs will really perform for you next spring. By planting those shrubs now, there is very little stress because of the mild conditions. The plants will love it.

To really get a jump on the season, plant perennials this fall. These hardy plants need a cold spell to help establish flowering buds. By planting perennial plants now, you will have a well established plant for next year's flowering season. Some of my favorites are hosta, peony, iris and astilbe. There are many more to select from. Stop by, pick out a plant that you have not heard of, and surprise yourself next summer when it blooms.

Stop by the nursery department this fall to select the perfect tree or shrub for fall color. You will be able to select the actual fall color that these plants provide year after year.

I am always excited to see what special blend of tulips our bulb supplier, Piet Stuijbergen, mixes for us. This year, Piet wanted to make a blend that is called "Johnson's Prairie Mix". It consists of late varieties that will do well in the Kansas climate. Unlike many plants in the garden which we can see flower soon after planting, these spring-flowering bulbs must be planted this fall for a spectacular show next spring.

Weed-Free Lawns

If you have some weeds in your lawn that you just can't get rid of (*like clover*), ferti•lome has a new broadleaf weed control for eliminating difficult-to-control weeds.

(The old standby, liquid ferti•lome Weed-Out is still available and works well on most weeds.) Just introduced is ferti•lome Weed Free Zone. This product starts with Trimec (same active ingredient in liquid Weed-Out) but has added carfentrazone. This combination of weed killers works on over 80 troublesome broadleaf weeds. This product will provide rapid and effective weed control with visible results within 24 hours of application. Weed Free Zone also works in both cooler and warmer temperatures than other broadleaf weed killers, allowing you more flexibility when spraying.

Organic Pest Control

Another new product introduced by ferti•lome is an organic product containing cedar and juniper oils. Natural Guard Lawn, Plant & Pet Insect Spray is a great mosquito repellent and provides chemical-free insect control on lawns, ornamentals, fruits, vegetables and pets.

Now get outside and enjoy this wonderful fall season! ■