

September Gardening in Transylvania County

Extension Master Gardener Volunteers

Master Gardener | Transylvania County

As the temperature starts to cool down a bit in September, it is a great time to head out to enjoy the garden. To help you keep up with all that is going on, we've put together a list of gardening tasks to do now with links for more information on each topic. If you have questions or need more information, please contact the Transylvania County Cooperative Extension at 828.884.3109 send us an email.

Fertilizing

- Fertilize cool season lawns with one pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet. [Cool season lawn information](#)
- Apply lime according to soil test report.
- Do NOT fertilize shrubs in August, September, October or November.

Planting

- Plant pansies, mums and ornamental kale for autumn color. [Colorful blooms in fall](#)
- Plant herbaceous perennials. [Planting perennials and bulbs](#)
- Plant container grown trees and shrubs. [Planting trees and shrubs](#)
- Seed cool season lawns at the beginning of the month. [Cool season lawn information](#)
- Plant the following fall vegetable plants early this month: mustard greens, onions and lettuce. [A Beginner's Guide to Vegetable Gardening](#)
- Plant cover crops such as winter rye. [Cover crops for home gardens](#)



Pruning

- Do not prune shrubs in August, September, or October.
- Divide peonies late in the month. [Peony care](#)

Managing Pests and Diseases

- If not already done in August, spray trunks of peach, nectarine, cherry and plum trees, including ornamental varieties the first week in September to prevent peach tree borers. Borers may also be killed by inserting wire into the hole, taking care not to damage the tree. [Fruit Spray Schedule](#).
- Monitor for insects and if needed, spray the following fall vegetables for insects: broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower (worms), squash (borers). [Vegetable pests control](#)
- Continue to spray rose bushes. [Fungus on roses](#)

Lawn Care [Lawn Information](#)

- Core-aerate cool season lawn if needed.
- Seed cool season grasses at the beginning of the month
- Keep newly seeded areas watered.
- Fertilize cool season lawns.
- Apply lime if required.

Miscellaneous To Do

- Apply pre-emergent herbicides in garden beds in mid-September to control cool-season annuals such as chickweed and annual bluegrass [Weed control](#)
- Remove crop residue as garden harvest is complete and destroy if diseased or insects are present.
- Strawberry beds need one inch of water each week now for good flower bud development.
- Compost leaves and other garden refuse. [Composting](#)
- Order spring bulbs to be planted in October and November.
- Take soil samples. [Soil samples](#)

Plants in Bloom in September: Crapemyrtle, Rose-of-Sharon, Peegee Hydrangea, Abelia, Dahlia, Canna, Ginger Lily, Chrysanthemum, Spider Lily, Fall Crocus, Liriope, Sedum, Asters, Goldenrod, Joe Pye Weed, summer annuals