

The first day of autumn is on September 22, 2025 but with this being one of the coolest years on record, it's felt like autumn off and on for several weeks now! Some of these fluctuations in temperatures have even caused some of the trees on campus to show signs of stress with probably the most evident being sycamore's and Chinese elm trees which began yellowing and dropping leaves prematurely.

With the growing season starting to come to a close and some nice dry weather to work in, why don't you get an early start around your garden and try get that last flush of colorful blooms from perennials as well as to start preparing it for winter. Below are some tips that can be done as autumn kicks in.

Fall clean up

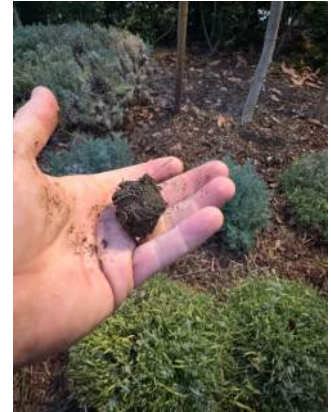
Get a head start on cleanup by raking up excess leaves and other organic debris. This helps reduce the number of hiding places for pests and helps avoid potential diseases that can overwinter. A thin layer of about 2" is ok, but you don't want to leave mounds of leaves that can later mat together and block air and water from your plants and trees through fall and winter potentially causing them to dry out.



One months worth of leaf debris being removed from Build 10 and 170 in the Main Quad. Remember some is ok, too much is not good!

Monitor your irrigation

Keep an eye on your plants and trees with these different variations in weather we have been having and adjust your controller accordingly. Check your system components for proper operation and make any repairs needed.



Wet soil at an irrigation station that had not been adjusted to run less over these past few cooler weeks

Deadheading spent blooms

There is potentially still enough time to get one more flush of blooms from roses and other perennials, spend some time deadheading spent flowers and pruning out any dead, diseased or damaged branches.



Selective rose pruning is happening throughout the campus so we can have blooms for Reunion Homecoming.

Hedging or pruning shrubs and other plants

The weather is perfect for that last touch up of any hedges you may need to tidy up with your hedge trimmer or plants to prune with your good ole hand pruners. Make sure to use sharp clean equipment!



The escallonia hedges at the front entrance of Stanford Law School were just trimmed of their summer growth in advance of their orientation this past Tuesday August 25, 2025

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