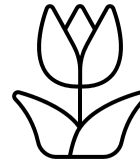
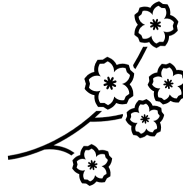


WHAT ARE OUR STAR GARDENERS DOING IN SEPT?



Janet Schulz: If you have any houseplants you want to bring in for the winter, now is the time to start thinking about it. Place your potted plant in a larger pot than what it's planted, and fill it with soapy water. Let it sit for one minute or so. In the meantime, wash its leaves, especially the underside, take it out of the pot and allow it to drain and bring inside wherever you want it.

If you have an amaryllis plant that you want to re-bloom, hopefully you've been feeding it during the summer. Now is the time to turn the pot on its side and let the leaves and soil dry. After about 8 to 12 weeks, store it in a cool, dark place. Watch for new growth starting to show and begin watering.

Sharon Ma: Deadhead perennials and annuals that you don't want them to seed around, and leave those you want the seeds for next year or simply just leave them for the birds. If you leave the seed heads of the echinacea (corn flowers) on the plant, you will have finches visit your garden.

I let some of the special annuals/perennials seed, then I collect them once the seeds are ready. Some, I sprinkle them where I want to see more of them next year, such as columbine, cleome, portulaca, etc, and some (e.g. vegetables), I put them in envelopes for next season.

If you found a lot of grubs (larvae of Japanese beetles) in your lawn or garden, now is the time to put down Milky Spore (*Paenibacillus popilliae*) or grubGone (*Bacillus thuringiensis galleriae* "Btg") to control them. You can find Milky Spores in most garden centers. For grubGone, I ordered online, just google it. They both are bacteria that target the grubs, and they won't harm beneficial insects, birds, bees, pets or people. It is the organic approach to control grubs and Japanese beetles, but must be put down either end of April/early May or end of Aug/early Sept to be effective.

Never use the grub control products sold in the big box stores because they mostly contain insecticides such as imidacloprid, thiamethoxam, clothianidin or chlorantraniloprole which will also kill pollinators and all other life forms living under the soil and that will turn your soil into dead soil. A healthy soil contains a lot of life forms that live under it to keep our plants healthy.

I suggest everyone learn about the term "Flora & Fauna". The link below is an interesting read:

What is Flora and Fauna: Importance and Various Examples
<https://www.conserve-energy-future.com/what-are-flora-and-fauna.php-->

Paul Sisko: WOW I can't believe we are in September already. It has been quite an adventure in the garden this summer. Rain, excessive heat and humidity and those darn spotted lanternflies. But we carry on, planting everything we can with hopes of creating the best garden we can knowing what we have learned from previous experience.

Now is the time for deadheading and pruning many of the perennials that we enjoyed the past few months. Replacing them with potted chrysanthemums and even decorative cabbages. Soon we'll be adding pumpkins to our garden decor. If you've enjoyed the veggies during meals this summer you can see the end of those productive plants that are now looking pretty sad. Janet and I have had wonderful meals from the veggies grown in our garden and will continue to enjoy our butternut squash into winter since they last for quite some time.

As I write this tonight I'm remembering the beautiful day we had this last day of August. Cooler days ahead and more enjoyable days in the garden.

Enjoy.

Nancy Blasius: Now is the time to take note of ideas for next year.

Write down in your gardening notebook what went well that you want to repeat. Also add ideas you picked up from gardens or potted arrangements you saw.

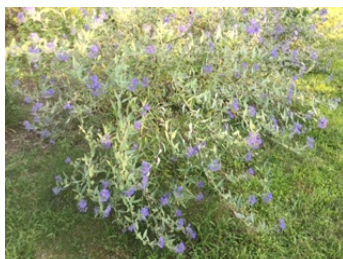
Collect seeds you want to save and dry in labeled envelopes. With some self-seeding annuals like Cleome, you can scatter the seeds now in places you want them next year.

Divide, move, and /or remove perennials that have outgrown their spaces. Keep deadheading.

Joan Rottkamp: Two great deer proof, long blooming plants and flowering in the garden right now are perennial ageratum and caryopteris shrubs. They both add a much welcome touch of blue to the late summer garden. The birds, bees, butterflies and other pollinators reported they're very happy!



Perennial ageratum



Caryopteris (Blue Mist)



Caryopteris flower

P.S. We hang our hummingbird feeders out on August 1st and always get humming-birds on the way home. Once, one stayed until October 8th.

