

## Gardener's Corner September 2024

Where did the summer go? The time seemed so short and now it's time to think about putting the garden to bed (no pun intended). So, what do we need to do and know before fall?

Tips and tasks from the **Missouri Botanical Garden** for the month advise that now is a good time to divide perennials, especially those spring bloomers like peonies. Peonies should be planted shallowly, only 1-2 inches deep, to make certain flowers will form. It is also a good time to plant trees and shrubs. Planting can be done until November. Make sure to adequately water new plantings until they are established. Watch for milkweed bugs eating milkweeds as the plants form pods, although these bugs cause minimal damage and are mostly an annoyance. If you plan to overwinter some annuals, now is the time to take cuttings.

Dead spots in lawns can be reseeded and cool-season lawns fertilized with up to 3 applications of fertilizer between September and December. Use rates recommended by the fertilizer manufacturer as a guide. Don't forget to water your lawn thoroughly as needed.

**Garden Design** suggests that you check out *Landscape Recipes from Proven Winners* to design a new garden project. The site gives a planting diagram and list of needed plants for your new garden space. Find it at: [https://beauty.provenwinners.com/landscape-recipes/?utm\\_source=gd-newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Landscape-Recipes-8-22-24](https://beauty.provenwinners.com/landscape-recipes/?utm_source=gd-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Landscape-Recipes-8-22-24)

**Garden Design** also has a good article entitled *Invasive Plants & What to Grow Instead*. Through 15 pictures and accompanying text, the article outlines several unwanted plants that have become problems in the last few years. Among them are two that are prevalent in Missouri, the Bradford pear and Japanese honeysuckle. You can find this article here: [https://www.gardendesign.com/plants/invasive.html?utm\\_source=article-newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Invasive-Plants-8-15-24](https://www.gardendesign.com/plants/invasive.html?utm_source=article-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Invasive-Plants-8-15-24)

Now that we are entering fall, webinars are becoming more plentiful. Some programs of interest in September include the following:

September 10, 1:30 p.m.- 2:30 p.m. *Four Seasons Garden Webinar Series* of the **University of Illinois Extension** presents *Design Stunning Personalized Landscaping*. Learn how to start with the basics of landscape design to create a beautiful and functional outdoor space. Register at: <https://registration.extension.illinois.edu/start/four-seasons-gardening-webinar-designing-stunning-personalized-landscapes-sept-10>

**Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC)** has two virtual programs of interest.

September 18, 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. For you campers, learn how to forage in the wild at this virtual program entitled *Outdoor Survival: Bushcraft Series – Foraging*. This program will show you how to identify and use specific wild plants while camping or in an emergency. Register at: <https://mdc-event-web.s3licensing.com/Event/EventDetails/199954>

September 20, 3:30 p.m.– 4:30 p.m. *Native Plants: Wild Color Palettes*. Planting non-native flowers isn't the only way to have colorful flower beds. This session will suggest native wildflower combinations that can provide an array of color to your flowerbeds throughout the growing season. Register for this program at: <https://mdc-event-web.s3licensing.com/Event/EventDetails/202656>

