

Gardener's Corner
October 2024

It's a beautiful October day today. The fall weather is perfect for getting the garden ready for winter.

I just got back from eastern Ohio where it was reported to me that the spotted lantern flies were so numerous on the local high school building that students were destroying them on the way into and out of the building. These insects are truly a nuisance there and it is difficult to get rid of them. While some have been found in Illinois, spotted lantern flies are still east of us. To prepare for a Missouri invasion, you can find more information about them at this **USDA** site: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-pests-diseases/slf> The article recommends that if you find any, report it to **Plant Industries Division** of the **Missouri Department of Agriculture** in Jefferson City (address is given in the article).

The **Missouri Botanical Garden** has several tasks and tips for October. While the average first frost date for St. Louis, MO, is October 15-20th, it is possible to plant trees and shrubs through November. It is important to make sure we water them thoroughly and provide mulch for winter protection. Cut perennials down to 1 inch above soil level as they start to die back. You can leave some natives like echinacea, rudbeckia, and helianthus, so that wildlife has winter food sources. And remember that fallen leaves in the garden beds not only supply habitats to wildlife over the winter, but also provide some fertilization and suppression of weeds.

From mid to late October is the time to plant daffodils and other spring bulbs, and plant tulips until the ground freezes. Dig up non-hardy bulbs such as dahlias, gladiolus and cannas after their leaves turn yellow or the first frost. Allow the cleaned bulbs to dry under cover with good air circulation before storing.

Bring in houseplants and other tropical plants early to mid-October or before nightly temperatures reach below 50. Be sure to check and treat them for pests before they come inside.

Garden Design has a good article on hostas as does **Proven Winners**. The first article is *Hosta Growing: Care, Planting and Design Ideas* at https://www.gardendesign.com/plants/hosta.html?utm_source=gd-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Hostas-9-26-24; the second is *10 Ideas for Designing a Hosta Garden that Wows* at https://www.provenwinners.com/learn/hosta/garden-design-ideas?utm_source=gd-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=PW-Designing-Hostas-9-26-24

Virtual programs of interest in October are the following:

You can watch anytime: *Shade Gardens: Native Plants and Ecological Benefits* video offered by the **University of Illinois Extension**. Are there native plants well suited to a shade garden? In this Everyday Environment Webinar Series video, learn the ecological benefits of planting natives underneath trees and explore your options when it comes to choosing shade tolerant native plants. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pm7-kpk2te4>

Tuesday, October 8 – 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. *Discover the Benefits of Engaging with Nature* offered in the Four Seasons Gardening Webinar Series by the **University of Illinois Extension**. Explore what we

are missing when we lose our connection to nature and gain inspiration that will help to prioritize nature connections, even as winter approaches and day lengths shorten. Register at: <https://extension.illinois.edu/events/2024-10-08-discover-benefits-engaging-nature>

October 24 – 11:00 a.m. to noon CDT. *Shifting Boundaries: Approaches to American Landscapes* offered by **Smithsonian Gardens**. American landscape paintings from the late 19th and early 20th century can be a catalyst to discuss 21st century concerns such as climate change, the erasure of indigenous histories, and the impacts of land and water use. Join **Smithsonian Gardens'** Lauren Brandes and Melinda Whicher in conversation with the **National Museum of Asian Art's (NMAA)** Diana Greenwold as they discuss their recent collaboration on the new exhibition *Shifting Boundaries: Approaches to American Landscapes* now on view at the National Museum of Asian Art. This project is the first of its kind at **NMAA**, a fully collaborative endeavor that brought together experts in landscape and environment to answer the question, how do we find contemporary resonance in historic American landscape painting? Register at: https://smithsonian.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_OvIBXS-SbqUN7iLk3KHGQ#/registration