



## October Tip of the Month Save Big with Fall Planting

Let the fun begin! The gardening season is coming to an end, and hasn't it been wonderful! Although the month of October is traditionally a month that you spend a lot of time cleaning gardens, dividing perennials, pulling veggie plants and overgrown annuals, don't be fooled... it's a perfect time to plant, with huge savings!!

Many garden centers, nurseries, and greenhouses are cleaning out the stock left from the busy season, therefore now is a great time to plant! Early October is a great time to get a true snap shot of the gardens and landscape around your home, to see just where the deficits fell throughout the season. Do this early enough, prior to any killing frosts, to visualize and get a good impression on how you did for the year. Look for empty spots; write down times that there were areas lacking color or definition. Better to get these ideas replanted in your mind or written in your journal before the landscape has changed for the winter and there is a foot of snow on the ground! Look specifically where you can improve, and in most cases it may be simple. It may take just a few more annuals; moving a few perennials or trimming an ornamental tree or shrub that is causing too much shade for the crop planted below. This is the time to make those decisions and do something about it!

October is a perfect time to create a new garden, rip out the old and start a new or just add the plants that you really couldn't afford during the planting season, because you were focused on other area. Take advantage of huge savings going on this time of year! You'll find annuals at a huge reduction and most of the ornamental trees and shrubs that nurseries sell are on sale at 50% off just to reduce the inventory of over wintered material, and they should come with a guarantee.

Perennials are definitely a great buy at this time of year because greenhouses are trying to make room for newly planted material and may have excess inventory. Every plant has a color tag identifying all of the information that is necessary to make the decision easy. If you are considering large blocks of perennials to do a large planting, even better....you should be able to get the best deal, and have success with planting right through the month of October and into early November. Remember, most of those plants have significant root systems after being watered all summer long, generally with fertilizer, and are ready to explode when they get in the ground!

It's a great time to trim evergreens, wood ornamentals, and just overgrown shrubs that have gotten out of hand. Divide Hosta, Daylilies, Bee balm and just about any other perennial that you can cut in half in your garden because now is the time. It's also time to plant your fall bulbs before it's too late. You can generally plant right through November in Vermont to enjoy that splash of spring color in April and May when everything else is sitting tight in the garden!!

Have fun creating new visions and enjoy this last bit of planting!