



September Tip of the Month

Decorating for Fall

Fall is right around the corner: cooler nights, less watering, less mowing the lawn, and more time because the kids are back in school!! All this means more time to garden ~ Yahoo! September is one the best times of year to spend in the garden. Cool mornings, division of overgrown perennials that may have gotten out of hand for one more year, and the favorite of many gardeners, decorating for fall!

Fall gardening is quite different than spring, because your philosophy of gardening is different, your color palate changes dramatically and so does your options of plant material. Again, texture in the fall landscape makes this the best time of year to have a vision for your garden. If you can visualize how many of your plants throughout your landscape look without foliage, the dimensions and configuration of the branches may lead you to an entirely different approach when you are planning your fall decorating.

Corn stalks, hay bales and mums are traditional accents for your entryway and light posts. A great way to set your landscape apart from others is to go digging in the attic and drag out accent pieces. Simple props such as old shutters, where the paint has chipped away, or a metal bed frame that may have been sitting in the attic for years can become the perfect back drop to start your design. That old barbed wire that you've tripped on during your several hikes this summer may make the perfect door wreath as a focal point for fall. You can dress it up with mini cattails or your favorite collection of feathers adorning one side. Incredible, and simple, with little effort and expense!

Once you have come up with the props, adding color or defined texture to the display may be the easiest part of the project. An old milk can found at a flea market during your summer travels may be a perfect base for cattails, curly willow or cornstalks tucked discretely in the corner of your patio. An elegant evening fire may add just enough ambiance to that intimate setting that will have everyone talking about it over a glass of wine. A bit of color at the base may be just enough to finalize the project without too much work.

Then the fun starts by using plants with character such as all of the flowering Kale and Cabbages available for not only texture, but character. A perfect mix of Kale, flowering Vermont-Grown hardy Mums, and a fresh new batch of fall Pansies can do wonders to a dingy entryway or corner on the porch.

Remember, your choices are endless! Have fun moving your garden accents around the yard at different times of the year, adding different dimensions to your landscape. Your keen sense of color, texture and dimension is what is going to enlighten your friends, and the possibilities are endless. Remember it will be simple to add the yellows and oranges of fall by accenting any of these displays later in the month with the fruits of the seasons, such as squash, pumpkins and funky gourds, giving you an entirely different look for the month of October, with little effort!