

## Fall time to plant shrubs

Homeowners are discovering a new gardening season—autumn.

Professional gardeners and landscapers have always valued fall for planting trees and shrubs, seeding lawns and setting out spring flowering bulbs such as tulips and daffodils. The resurgence of home gardening has made the average gardener more ambitious than ever, and autumn is perfect for gardening.

The typically cool temperatures reduce stress on gardens and gardeners alike. Soil conditions could not be better. The earth becomes easy to work—neither dry and dusty as in summer, nor muddy as in spring. Young roots of newly planted trees, shrubs and sprouted grass start establishing themselves

before frost hardens the ground, giving these plants a headstart over those planted in spring.

Autumn is the one and only time to plant spring flowering bulbs. They require a few months of in-ground refrigeration to perform their spring magic.

Heat and drought make life difficult for new trees and shrubs. If set in the ground in fall, the plants have two periods of cool weather growth—autumn and spring—to prepare for their first summer.

Established trees that were neglected during spring and summer can be pruned for shape in fall. Where drastic pruning is required, spring bleeders such as maples, birches, and walnuts are best tended in autumn.

If attempts at summer lawn reseeding have failed, chances are you could not keep the seed beds sufficiently moist under the scorching sun. Grass seeds and sprouts prefer the warmish days and cool nights typical of autumn.

Fall visits to local garden centres will increase knowledge of the choices available to beautify your home. You can see first-hand which plants, with fruit, leaf colour, or bark, offer the most appeal for fall and early winter.

## Meanderings

by Mabel Barkman

When one of the recipes sounds so practical I can't understand why I've never tried it before, it's an extra bonus. These eggs sound delicious and as soon as I have a jar of leftover pickle juice I shall try them.

When I make dill pickles, I usually throw out the juice when the pickles are all used, but

this recipe suggests that you hard boil some eggs, shell them and place in the jar of juice which also has some sweet and hot peppers, some garlic and dill. Leave the eggs in the jar in the refrigerator for a week and then use for lunch or as a garnish for a salad.

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