

Fall is the time to plan overwintering of plants

By TOM CAVAN

Fall is a very important time of year for your garden. It is the time you can apply yourself to gardening schedules that insure good overwintering of all plants in the garden. Sometimes it's a race to beat the first snow, but this year Mother Nature has been kind to us, and provided some of the best autumn weather for gardening. To insure good success for next year follow these gardening tips to put your garden to bed for the winter.

1. Rake all deciduous leaves and place them in your compost. Before placing them in your compost chew them up with your lawn mower then layer them with soil and soak them down with water, it makes excellent top dressing for your lawn next year.

2. Fall is an excellent time to plant! The soil is warm and the air is cool, a perfect blend of conditions to plant trees, shrubs, evergreens and spring flowering bulbs. You can successfully plant until mid-November. After planting be sure to keep your transplanted trees and shrubs well watered until the ground freezes.

3. Dividing perennials is a must for healthy vigorous plants. If they crowd each other out they will deteriorate and bloom less. Gently lift them from the ground with a spade or fork and brush the excess soil from the root. Divide at the narrowest point of the root storage and cut cleanly.

If you notice any soft spots dust them with a fungicide to prevent any problems. Newly transplanted root divisions should be mulched and watered thoroughly for overwintering.

4. Summer flowering bulbs like gladiolus, dahlias and tuberous begonias should be lifted and dried in the garage for two to three days, then brush off all soil from root storages and place in dry peat moss in either a cardboard box or paper bag with air holes to prevent fungus attack. You can dust these bulbs with a fungicide for bulbs as a safeguard against mold and mildew. Keep cool but don't allow them to freeze in the garage, a cool dry location in the basement or root cellar is recommended.

5. This is the most important time of year to refurbish your lawn. Fall fertilizing your lawn with a low nitrogen fertilizer will improve the root system of your lawn and thicken it up to help choke out weeds. If your lawn is thin fall seeding of perennial grass seed is especially successful during fall conditions. Fall fertilizer can be applied with grass seed because of its low nitrogen content, but don't try to blend to apply at the same time, apply them separately! Be sure that the nitrogen in the fertilizer is slow release! This is the formulation you can apply with grass seed and not burn the tender grass as it germinates.

6. Evergreens in exposed loca-

tions should be protected by spraying anti-transparent to avoid wind burn and retain good color. You can use burlap to protect your evergreens but I don't understand the rationale of planting an evergreen for 12 months of the year color only to wrap it up for 5-6 months. The other problem with burlap is timing, you should not wrap your evergreen until it is dormant otherwise you cut off air circulation and in spring your evergreens will have a lot of brown in the interior part of the plant if not all over, due to lack of air movement. The other problem with burlap is you must be sure to take the burlap off at the right time in spring, otherwise you will make the same mistake! If you choose anti-transparent, spray it on the evergreens on a mild day, thoroughly wet the foliage inside and out.

If you are worried about snow load on a particular plant tie the plant upwards with heavy twine in spiral fashion approximately mid-November to the first of December. This will prevent any ice or snow damage.

7. Mulch tender perennials and perennials that are planted in high dry exposed areas where freezing and thawing may be a problem, or in a location where snow does not lay its protective blanket.

8. To prevent rodent damage to your garden and turf when you fertilize at the same time spread blood and bone meal around your plants for good root development and an organic natural way to ward off mice and rabbits. You should paint the stems of soft bark trees and shrubs with a rodent repellent. You apply this with a paint brush directly to the bark. When a rodent takes a bite

it will find it distasteful and proceed to your neighbors house for a late winter snack.

9. Collect seeds off of your annuals and place them in a dry paper bag and store in a dry cool place. Direct seed in the garden next year with some of those easy to germinate annuals like allysun, cosmos, marigold and

petunias.

10. Last but not least is gather up all your tools to be cleaned, sharpened and oiled to put away for winter. Drain your garden hose and place in a dry place properly coiled so it does not damage the lining.

If you have any questions call the Grapevine Hotline at 833-2117.

Very special day

By BETTY SOJKA

Friday, September 6th, was a special day for Lloyd and Eileen Burt. It was exactly 50 years since the couple first exchanged their wedding vows. A huge celebration was held on this date, with about 300 people in attendance, at the Acton Legion. A wonderful buffet was enjoyed. To everyone's delight, Marion's Country Band was there to add to the merriment, and supply superb dance music. Lloyd and Eileen have been just west of Ballinafad on their 6th Line farm since 1949. They have a son and daughter living in the area. Many happy returns are wished for Lloyd and Eileen as they celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Sunny skies, and warm temperatures made for an ideal day for the Robson Family Reunion held Sept. 8th at the Ballinafad Community Centre. After marrying in Ireland, in 1881, John and Susan Robson emigrated to Canada, where they settled in Proton Twp., (near Dundalk, Ontario). From here, the family spread throughout Southern Ontario, including the Ballinafad area. Other families tracing their heritage to the Robson family are familiar area



names such as Till, Shortill, Hogarth, McEnery, Price, Barber and Price. About 50 people were at the reunion, and participated in a variety of activities such as horseshoes, and baseball, and a buffet was served. Reunion organizers have relegated to the younger generations. The Robson Family have been getting together yearly since 1930. Special surprise entertainment is always supplied, by organizers.

The Jim Dandies stood fast in their record, by going through the playoffs without a loss. Never before in the Acton Ladies Recreation League history has this feat been attained. Sandra Prouse, Elaine Bowman, and Sharon Marshall were recognized during the weekend games, for their Sportsman Like qualities. The ladies celebrated the end of the season by having a team party at the home of Kathy Martin. The ladies will be travelling to Niagara Falls this coming weekend to participate in the Coors Slow Pitch Tournament.

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