

**2019-2020
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MASTER
GARDENER**In this issue**Fall Planting Trees & Shrubs **P.1**Peach Leaf Curl & Winterizing
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Now is a perfect time to add a new tree or grouping of shrubs to the landscape. The fall may be the best season to plant even surpassing the spring.

September through December planting have distinct advantages. Plant roots grow anytime the soil temperature is 40 degrees or higher, which may occur most of the winter in south Arkansas. During the winter months, the root systems of the fall-planted specimens develop and become established. When spring arrives, this expanded root system allows better support for the spring surge in growth.

Fall is the optimum time to plant balled and burlapped trees and shrubs. Balled and burlapped plants have ample time to recover from transplanting and proliferate roots before spring growth begins. However, all **bare root** plants, including roses and fruit trees, should be planted in late winter when they are completely dormant.

Always, when buying plants for your landscape, be sure to get healthy, well-grown plants. Also, buying from a reputable dealer can save you troubles and heartache in the future.

All plants have growing requirements. Think about the plant's needs before you invest those hard earned dollars.

Important questions include: Is it adapted

to your area's soil? Will it grow in sun or shade? Does it need a wet or dry location? Is it cold hardy? Most of these questions will be answered on the tags included with the plants (if they have tags). If the plant is without this informational tag, ask a nursery professional or your local county Extension agent.

'Plan before you plant' is always a good rule of thumb. Put your plans on paper and make sure selected plants will fit their location and provide the intended look and value to your home and landscape.

Every plant in the landscape should serve a purpose. Ask yourself if you want a plant for screening, for privacy, or for shade. How large will it be five years from now? Plants, like people, grow up. Remember, that a small one-gallon-size plant will look entirely different after a few years of growth in your landscape.

For more information on Fall Tree Care and planting tips, check out our website at: <https://www.uaex.edu/yard-garden/home-landscape/fall-landscaping/fall-tree-care.aspx>

September –

October Calendar:

- Sept. 12 Van Buren MG plant sale
- Oct. 24 Advanced MG class: Native Plant Propagation.
- Stay tuned for updates.

September-October to do list:

1. Record all MG volunteer hours.
2. Last call to fertilize lawns and shrubs.
3. Divide spring blooming perennials.
4. Replenish mulch.
5. Plan your Fall color.
6. Treat lawn for Fire Ants before freezing temperatures.
7. Apply a Pre-Emerge herbicide for winter weeds.
8. Purchase your mums for fall color.
9. Plant winter color.
10. Dig and store tender bulbs.
11. Clean up flower and vegetable gardens.

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“Those who are happiest are those who do the most for others.

“ Booker T. Washington

Peach Leaf Curl:

Peach/nectarine Alert!! If you had problems with Peach Leaf Curl this season, we are rapidly approaching the window to spray to prevent the disease next season. Peach Leaf Curl is easily controlled with one well-timed fungicide application in the fall after 90% of the leaves have dropped, or very early in the spring before the buds begin to swell. Chlorothalonil or copper sprays are effective. By the time the tree leafs out and the symptoms of Peach Leaf Curl are evident, it is too late to spray during the current season. Spores from the fungus *Taphrina deformans* overwinters on twigs and bud scales. Infection occurs at bud break early in the spring during cool, wet weather. Blisterlike swellings, curling, thickening, puckering, and discoloration of the leaves are the first symptoms of Peach leaf curl. Affected areas may turn pink, red or yellow. In severe cases, defoliation occurs along with substantial yield loss.

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“Winterizing” your lawn:

It may not feel like it yet, but we need to start thinking about the change in seasons. This is the time to focus on winterizing our lawns.

There are 3 things you may want to address:

1) **Weed Control.** This is a good time to treat weeds in the lawn and also prepare for future winter weeds. Early October is a good time to apply pre-emergent herbicides to your lawn for control of winter weeds like Annual Bluegrass, Spurweed, Henbit, and chickweeds.

2) **Fertilization.** Potassium is thought to improve winter hardiness in some situations where soil potassium levels may be low (a good time for a soil analysis). As a result, it is commonly recommended that a “winterizer” fertilizer containing a higher ratio of K be applied six weeks before the first frost. For us, the first frost is usually around the first week of November.

3) **Over-Seeding.** It is common for athletic fields and high utilized turfgrass to be over-seeded with a cool season grass for the winter. For homeowners, one advantage is aesthetics – having a green lawn throughout the winter. Annual and perennial ryegrass is a common selection for overseeding. A good time to over-seed is when nights are cooling into the 50's, and day time temperatures are in the 70's. Over-seeding is usually not recommended for St. Augustine or Centipede lawns.