



October Monthly Reminder

Planting

- Plant trees and shrubs (Refer to *Planting Guidelines: Container Trees and Shrubs* [AZ1022](#)) of all types early in the month (Refer to *Training and Pruning Newly Planted Deciduous Fruit Trees* [AZ1668](#)). Warm soil temperatures and cooler air temperatures combine to provide ideal conditions for the establishment of new landscape plants. Although not as large initially, trees in smaller 5-15 gallon containers will establish and grow faster than those in larger containers.
- Early in the month sow seeds outdoors or plant starts of arugula, beets, carrots, brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, chard, fava beans, kale, lettuce, leeks, bok choy, peas, and spinach.
- By mid-month, sow or plant cilantro, dill, Mexican oregano, parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme.
- Plant cool-season annual flowers such as petunias, pansies, stock, snapdragons, violas, alyssum, dianthus and calendulas.
- Plant perennials such as angelita daisy, blackfoot daisy, black dalea, desert mallow, evening primrose, germander, Mexican honeysuckle, penstemon species, red justicia, Russian sage, salvia species and verbena.
- Plant citrus trees so that the top of the root ball is level with or slightly higher than the surrounding soil.
- Sow desert wildflower seeds and keep moist until they germinate.

Fertilizing

- Fertilize roses for the last time.
- Fertilize new plantings of flowers and vegetables with high-phosphorus mixture to encourage root growth.

Watering

- Adjust your irrigation frequencies for October- December per Arizona Department of Water Resources Guidelines.
- Water guidelines for newly planted native and desert adapted plants are as follows: Weeks 1-2 every 3-4 days; weeks 3 -4 every 6-7 days, weeks 5-6, every 7-10 days, weeks 7-8, every 10-14 days. After week 8 gradually extend time between irrigations until plants are established.

Maintenance

- Overseed Bermuda lawns with rye grass.
- Remove warm-season flowering plants to make room for cool-season ones.
- Do not prune unless plants are very leggy or intruding on walkways.
- If you did not prune roses slightly in September, do so now. Remove weak or spindly canes which are less than pencil-sized in thickness.

- Protect cold-sensitive plants from cold nights. Some plants cannot handle low temperatures, even if it is not yet freezing. Succulents such as adeniums, euphorbias, and pachypodiums should be brought indoors. Give these plants only about a cup of water per month during the winter.

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