

September Monthly Reminders



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES

Cooperative
Extension

Pima County -Master Gardener Program

Planting

- Plant flowering bulbs such as amaryllis, narcissus, iris, rain lilies, and ranunculus. Divide iris clumps. Choose a location with morning sun. Keep damp but not wet, mulching to hold in moisture.
- Plant cilantro, chives, parsley, sage, thyme and oregano. Winter herbs prefer sunshine and monthly feedings.
- Seeds for carrots, radishes, spinach, lettuces, turnips, green onions, beets, chard can be sown directly into the garden by mid-month; rutabaga, nasturtiums and sweet peas, dianthus, French marigold, snapdragon, lobelia, etc. should be planted this month.
- Broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, brussels sprouts can be started in trays to be transplanted next month.
- Plant strawberries where they will receive protection from afternoon sun.
- Plant deciduous fruit trees that do well in the desert, such as figs (Refer to *Growing Common Figs in the Low Desert* [AZ1636](#)) and pomegranates.

Fertilizing

- Do not feed anything that should be dormant during the winter months, as to do so would encourage tender growth that might freeze.
- To help other plants recover from summer exhaustion, fertilize lightly with a high nitrogen fertilizer, such as ammonium sulfate(21-0-0) or fish fertilizer, and water lightly.
- Fertilize roses in the latter half of September to encourage fall bloom.
- Feed stone-fruit trees such as apricots, peaches, and plums.

Watering

- Adjust irrigation based on the rains. Summer schedule should be maintained until temperatures drop.

Maintenance

- Prepare garden beds for fall planting by tilling organic matter, such as compost and aged steer manure into the soil. Mix in a starter fertilizer such as bone meal. (Refer to *Ten Steps to a Successful Vegetable Garden* [AZ1435](#))
- Discard split citrus fruit. This occurs when sun-damaged rinds cannot expand. Damaged fruit will attract fruit flies and other insects.
- Help plants recover from summer heat by pruning off dead and dried branches.
- Lightly prune roses in mid September with removal of approximately the top 1/3 of the plant. Pick up and discard all cuttings as they harbor insects and diseases.
- As sun begins to shift, relocate container plants to sunnier locations.
- Hose off plants that are dusty to control spider mites.
- Deadhead spent blooms and prune back leggy plants.

- If you notice something that looks like bird droppings on citrus trees, this might be the orange dog caterpillar which matures into the giant swallowtail butterfly. These will not cause major damage to a mature plant, but they may be picked off.
- Pull weeds before they seed.
- Divide iris beds every 3 to 4 years.

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