



## September Garden Tips

- Water and fertilize plants less so that they can harden off before winter.
- Winter pansies, flowering kale, and flowering cabbage can be planted now.
- Plant hardy mums in well-drained areas. Planting on a slight mound may help to provide proper drainage to get mums through the winter. It is also a great time to plant trees and shrubs.
- Perennials which have overgrown their space or have become crowded can be divided or moved at this time.
- This is the best time to divide peonies. Be sure to have 3-5 eyes per division. Replant so eyes are no more than 2 inches deep.
- For indoor color during the winter, pot up some spring flowering bulbs. Keep in a cool, dark place until new growth comes from the soil and then move to a bright window.
- Christmas cactus should be put into a cool, dark place for at least six weeks (covering with a box in the basement should work). After this, the plant needs a minimum of 4 hours of direct sun or 10 hours of bright light per day. Apply 0-10-10 fertilizer to encourage flower buds. This process also works for poinsettias but they need to be warmer so cover with a box but don't put in the basement.
- Begin 2-3 month dormancy for amaryllis. Do not water. Place in cool, dark place. Dormancy begins once leaves yellow.
- Harvest herbs such as sage and oregano by hanging clean stems upside down in dark place. Pot chives, oregano, basil or rosemary for winter use indoors.
- Take 5" geranium cuttings and remove the bottom 2" of leaves. Dip in rooting hormone and stick into sand, perlite, or vermiculite up to the first set of leaves. Water and place in a sunny place or under fluorescent lights. Cuttings should root in about 6 weeks. Put rooted cutting into a pot and grow until spring. Instead of doing cuttings, some people have success pruning back the geraniums half-way and putting the pots in the basement until spring.