

## Fall-The Best Time to Plan and Plant

The heat of summer may seem like just yesterday, but as much as we may not want to admit it, fall is fast approaching, which means that winter cannot be far behind. Wow, this year has flown by. Don't let the season pass you by without making some improvements to your yard. Fall is the perfect time for planting and sprucing up your yard. The cooler weather provides ideal conditions for planting trees, shrubs, bulbs and winter annuals. Working in your yard is also much more pleasant this time of year, so you can tackle larger installation projects as well.

The cool, moist weather of fall is great for root growth, enabling newly planted trees, shrubs and perennials time to establish strong root systems before winter cold sets in. Fall plantings also can take advantage of cool, wet spring weather to continue growing deep root systems, making them better able to withstand summer drought and hot weather. Just as you do in spring, aim for that window of opportunity when the soil is just right-not too wet and not too dry. Don't worry if your plants seem to go dormant right after planting. It's most likely a response of the tops (stems, leaves, etc.), and not the roots. **One of the best things about planting in the fall is that most nurseries don't want to store plants through the winter, so you can find incredible deals at end-of-the-season sales.**

You've enjoyed your outdoor living space all summer long, but now the days are getting shorter and the nights cooler, you might think you need to head indoors. Don't store the patio furniture just yet; consider adding some landscape features to enhance the season. **A stone firepit is the perfect thing to warm those cool nights and toast s'mores under the stars.** Exterior landscape lighting is a great way to brighten the night sky and allow you to enjoy your outdoor space longer.

Most experienced landscape designers and architects agree that the best-laid gardens and outdoor spaces are the result of a high degree of planning. Fall is the perfect time of year to start planning future outdoor projects so that work can begin before spring arrives. Get a sketch now and know what you are doing, so when it comes time, you're ready to hit the ground planting! Because we all know, it will be here before we know it!

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