

# Wegman's Nursery October Garden Tips

## Fall is a great time for planting . . .

New plantings establish roots quickly in warm soils, appreciating also the warmer air temperatures. Winter rains will help plants get established more easily. Fall is a great time to plant California natives, as well as most other temperature-hardy trees, shrubs and perennials. Wait until spring for tropical plants such as Bougainvillea, Princess Flower and Mandevilla.



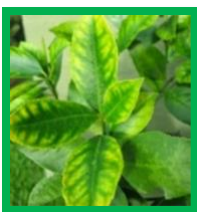
Order and pay for bare-root fruit trees or roses on any of **Wegman's 2020 Bare-Root Lists (Berries, Combo, or Fruit Trees, and Roses (Bushes, Climbers and Trees))** before November 30th, you will receive a 10% discount. **Click here** to access the lists and pricing of **2020 Bare-Root Fruit Trees**, and to view the **Bare-Root Roses (Bushes, Climbers and Trees)** and **pricing**. **Bare-root plants will be available for planting in January and February.**

Also available is gourmet and hard to find varieties of fruit trees available on Wegman's **First Pick Program** (sorry the discount does not apply)—view the **First Pick varieties, Order Form and Price List**. *Deadline on orders for First Pick is November 3rd.*

## Watering and Irrigation. . .

Traditionally, the first rains of the winter season fall about Halloween so we will hope that continues which will help keep us out of a drought. Meanwhile, adopt smart water conserving practices.

### BE SURE TO CHECK YOUR IRRIGATION SYSTEMS!



While the nights are cool in October, the days often remain hot. Be sure your irrigation systems are working adequately so that plants don't get dry. If you missed fertilizing your deciduous trees about Labor Day, fertilize now with half of your normal quota of **Master Nursery® Fruit Tree and Vine Food** and give a good watering before and after the fertilizer. If any of your trees or shrubs are showing signs of chlorosis (as shown), give them a light sprinkling of iron sulfate near the drip line of the plants.

**Check your systems** for leaks, broken or malfunctioning parts and adequate coverage. You may need to add emitters on drip systems for maturing trees or shrubs or you may need to adjust the length of time the system runs. To gauge whether your plants are getting adequate water, check the depth of moisture in the soil the day following watering. Soil near the drip line of trees and shrubs should show moisture to 12 inches. They will not need water again until the top two to three inches of soil is dry. It is worthwhile to purchase a **Rapitest® Moisture Meter** to check the condition of the soil moisture around the garden or house plants. See our **Care Guide for Irrigating Plants**.

**Remember that trees and shrubs cannot exist on the water produced by the lawn sprinklers.**

**FOR NEW PLANTINGS:** Once planting is completed, fill the new hole and its plant with water until it stops bubbling. Repeat twice a week for the first year. Check plants for water daily for the first week and if necessary, place hose on trickle near the base of the plant and leave on for up to 30 minutes. You may need to run drip or spray systems every

three to four days for the first two weeks if you find that the top two to three inches of soil dries out quickly. You can then adjust according to the following recommendations:

**LAWNS:** Ideally, lawns should be watered one to two times a week for one half to one hour to encourage deep root systems. If your water runs off the lawn, you may have to divide the time into two or three applications. If the lawns have not been aerated in the last two or three years, now is the time. Both air and water will penetrate the soil and stimulate roots. Some gardeners have sacrificed the lawn to use the water for trees and shrubs.



**SHRUBS & ROSES:** For most drip or spray systems, once a week for one hour should be adequate. Remember to avoid direct water on rose foliage unless you water early in the morning in order to decrease the incidence of rust. Contrary to popular belief, wet foliage does not promote powdery mildew. If you have a drip system, set your systems to emit five gallons of water two times a week. Large shrubs and roses will require at least two emitters placed 12 to 16 inches from the base of the plant. If you irrigate with spray or sprinklers, use the tuna fish can test to be sure the plants are getting one-half inch or more water per week.

**TREES:** Water established trees once a month through October for a few hours with bubblers at the drip line to ensure a deep soaking (wet to a depth of 16 to 24 inches recommended). You can also build a basin at least four to six inches deep at the drip line and flood monthly or use a **Ross® Root Feeder** once a month.

**VEGETABLES:** Soaker hoses work great for vegetable gardens. Run them one to two times per week for four to five hours. Turn pressure on until you count one drip every three seconds along the entire line. If you see spray four or more inches high, you have too much pressure.

**MULCHES:** When all your trees, shrubs and vegetables have been planted, they should be mulched. Almost any kind of organic matter can be used as mulch. Some examples are wood chips, fir bark, redwood compost, fir compost, rice hulls, hay and even newspaper. Some of the materials are more attractive than others. The purpose of the mulch is to suppress weeds, help prevent evaporation of water from the soil, keep the soil cooler, be attractive and gradually work into the soil as an amendment. Mulches (except newspaper) should be two to four inches deep and should be kept about four inches away from the trunks of trees and shrubs. Shredded redwood bark (sometimes called "gorilla hair") has not been found to be satisfactory mulch. It soon loses its attractiveness and does not permit water to pass through. Shredded redwood bark when rolled does make a good foot path.

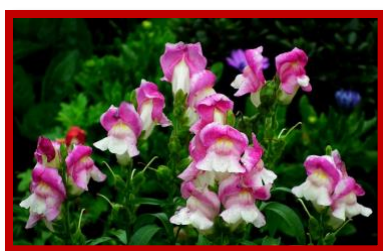
The Santa Clara Valley Water District offers home visits to evaluate water systems for water-wise efficiency. Call 1-888-439-6624 to schedule an appointment or contact them at [www.valleywater.org](http://www.valleywater.org). In the Redwood City area, please call: 780-7436.

## October Planting Tips from the Professionals. . .

### ANNUALS

Begin planting winter annuals: The warm days of October will help plants root more quickly and set buds. When colder weather hits; plants will be acclimated and in full bloom.

Try planting: Calendula, snapdragons, stock, and Cineraria for fall colors. For color through the winter months, plant Violas or pansies, Iceland poppies, primrose, Cyclamen, flowering kale or cabbage.



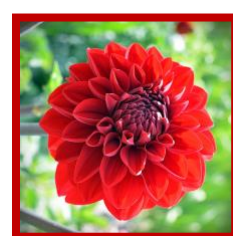
Remember to refresh your soil after removing your summer annuals and vegetables. Add one to two inches of **Master Nursery® Gold Rush** and broadcast **Master Nursery® Master Start Fertilizer** at the rate of two pounds to 100 square feet, gypsum at five pounds per 100 square feet and till into a depth of four to six inches.

Begin planting sweet peas from seeds: Add **Master Nursery® Master Start Fertilizer** at the rate of two pounds to 100 square feet. Plant seeds one inch deep and six inches apart and water in well.



For a novel twist, let sweet peas climb on existing shrubs. White sweet peas, for example, growing onto a red climbing rose or mixed sweet peas climbing on an ivy-covered fence provide a mildly wild look, boosting viewing pleasure. Dwarf sweet peas can be planted in containers or hanging baskets. For more information, see our [Care Guide for Sweet Peas from Seeds](#).

For those of you who enjoy growing annuals such as: cosmos, marigolds, zinnias, dahlias from seed -- now is the time to collect seeds from host plants. Seed pods should be allowed to dry in a paper bag. Pick the pods when they start to show brown and let them open in a paper bag. Seeds should be stored in paper bags or envelopes in a cool, dry place, never in plastic bags.



Some summer annuals, including vegetables, will start to show mildew. Don't bother spraying at this late date. Do not compost diseased plants. If you must spray, use **Master Nursery® Year-Round Spray Oil** (four tablespoons per gallon of water).

It is time to seed California native annuals and perennials such as: godetia, larkspur, lupine, tidy tips, etc. Follow the planting instructions on the seed packets...don't just throw the seeds on the ground unless you plan to feed the birds. Mix in some Joe Pye Weed or butterfly weed to attract butterflies. Scratch the ground to bare soil, scatter the seeds and cover with potting soil or **Master Nursery® Gold Rush** about one-half inch deep.



Apply **Bonide Captain Jack's DeadBug Brew®** (Spinosad), **Monterey B.t.** or **Ortho Malathion Max®** to control caterpillars on petunias and geraniums. We are particularly enthused with Spinosad which is accepted for organic production.

## BULBS

**Spring-blooming bulbs are here!** Shop now for a wide selection of bulbs. Those available are tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, freesias, narcissus, iris, anemone, and ranunculus. We also carry a select handful of unusual bulbs. Don't delay. *Leucojum* and *Galanthus* will bloom and naturalize under trees in your semi-wild areas. See our [Care Guide for Spring Bulbs and Paperwhites](#) for information for planting bulbs in pots. If you plant paperwhites in pots now to have beautiful blooms by Christmas.



For a different touch—plant a couple of dozen (or more) spring starflower (*Ipheion*) bulbs (two inches deep) in the lawn and forget about them. They will come up and bloom each spring. The leaves will blend with the lawn grass the remainder of the year. When you mow the flowers off, more will spring up.

We suggest planting bulbs in clusters of 12 or more approximately four to six inches apart. Dutch iris and narcissus (all kinds) are deer and gopher proof. For a striking garden, try planting two dozen daffodils in a cluster then strategically planting two dozen Dutch iris bulbs in between. You will yield about two to four months of spring bloom. If you plant six to eight inches deep, you can plant annuals or low ground covers over the top of them and forget about them for 10 or

12 years. These bulbs don't like too much water, or they will rot. They can survive with only winter rain. See our [Care Guide for Spring Bulbs and Paperwhites](#).

**Remember to refrigerate at 40-45° tulips, crocus, and hyacinths for six-eight weeks before planting.** Store bulbs in paper bags in the refrigerator, away from ripe fruits. Be sure bulbs stay dry.

Bulbs that don't need refrigeration can be planted now. However, if you want to hold them for later planting and/or later bloom they can be stored in the refrigerator or another cool dry place. Remember to amend soil with **Master Nursery® Gold Rush** and to broadcast **Master Nursery® Bulb Food** when planting. You can also add **Master Nursery® Bulb Food** to individual bulb holes. The general rule of thumb for the depth of the hole is three times the length of the bulb. Discard bulbs left over from last year. See our [Care Guide for Spring Bulbs](#).

If your dahlia roots are multiplying like rabbits, or if they have not been dug up for the last two years, dig them up now, leave soil on the roots, and store them in very slightly moist sawdust or **Gardner & Bloome® Organics Soil Building Condition**. In the spring, separate them and replant. See our [Care Guide for Dahlias](#).

For those last minute or emergency Christmas gifts: Save two or three dozen jumbo daffodil or tulip bulbs and store them in your refrigerator away from any kind of fruit. Then when you need them; wrap a dozen in a box or egg carton for a Christmas or hostess gift. If it turns out, you don't need them; plant them in your own garden! You can plant these bulbs until mid-January.

## FRUITS

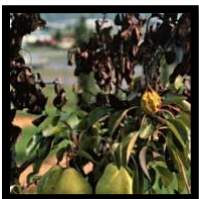
Order and pay for your bare-root fruit trees before November 30th, and you will receive a 10% discount on your order. **Click here to go to the 2020 Bare-Root Fruit, Nut and Flowering Tree Lists (Berries, Combo or Fruit Trees)** or the **2020 Bare-Root Rose Lists**. A list of our **2020 Bare-Root Rose Lists (Bushes, Climbers and Trees)** and **pricing** is available on our website and a catalogue is also available at our Cashier's area. Also available is gourmet and hard to find varieties of fruit trees available on **Wegman's First Pick** program (sorry the discount does not apply). The deadline for **First Pick** program ordering is November 3rd.

If you didn't prune your apricots in September, wait until January or February. Apricots are susceptible to *Eutypa lata*, a disease whose spores are most infective after the first rains. Pruning in August or early September allows pruning wounds to callous before the rains start. Do not prune trees again in winter. If trees are infected with brown rot, be sure to remove dead or diseased wood showing signs of oozing sap and cankers. See our [Care Guide for Apricot Trees](#).



**Cut back caneberrries**, such as blackberries and raspberries, now. Prune to the ground canes which fruited this summer and tie up new canes. These new canes will fruit next summer.

**Do not fertilize or water deciduous fruit trees** after the end of October.



Fireblight appears as blackened stems and scorched tips of new growth. It most commonly affects pears and quince, but also loquat, pyracantha, apples, photinia, and some other plants in the rose family. To control, cut nine to 12 inches below affected tissue, sterilizing pruning tools between each cut with a bleach solution (one-part bleach and nine parts H<sub>2</sub>O) or Lysol. Then spray the entire tree with **Monterey Liqui-Cop®** per directions in the [Apple and Pear Care Guide](#).



Peach leaf curl is best controlled by three dormant sprays with **Monterey Liqui-Cop®**, and **Master Nursery® Year-Round Spray Oil**; one each at the end of November, December and January. If these sprays are not available, use Chlorothalonil. Some of our gardener friends are going to use **Monterey Liqui-Cop®** at four-three the recommended strength to see how it works. Research at UC Davis supports that the most effective controls are applied when trees are dormant and that growing season controls, such as picking off infected leaves, spraying with kelp, or



blasting leaves with water is not effective. See our [Care Guide for Peaches and Nectarines](#). Our former spray materials of **Microcop** and **Lime Sulfur** are no longer available.

Brown rot of apricots, peaches, nectarines, plums and cherries manifests as dieback of and/or oozing from short fruiting spurs or branch tips and a decrease or absence of fruit production. While it is too late to spray for this disease this year, next year apply two additional sprays of **Bonide®Fung-onil™** or **Monterey Liqui-Cop®** at pink bud and full bloom. When pruning this fall or winter, you should remove dead wood, oozing wood and any wood with cankers.

**Remember—Never spray apricots with a sulfur spray.**

Check apple and pear trees for woolly apple aphids, which appear as a white cottony substance, usually in crevices, pruning cuts and on the roots at the base of the tree. Spray now with **Ortho®MAX® Malathion Insect Spray** or **GardenTech Sevin®** if present and if all fruit has been harvested.



Apple and pear scab have appeared more frequently this year than in the past. There is nothing to be done now. If your trees were infected this year, spray **Monterey Liqui-Cop®** at five teaspoons per gallon of water post-harvest before fall rains. Spray again when buds begin to show color and again at full bloom. **Bonide®Fung-onil™** (Chlorothalonil) can also be used. Pick up and dispose of all leaves.

**Select and plant citrus now.**



Check citrus for snail damage and for scale, a sucking insect that usually clusters along fruit stems, new growth and the undersides of leaves. If scale is found, UC recommends spraying the trees with a mixture of **Horticultural Oil** and **Malathion**. Repeat after two weeks. Do not use **Ortho®MAX® Malathion Insect Spray** when trees are in bloom. Don't use horticultural oil more than four times during the growing season and never within one month of a sulfur spray. Wait at least two weeks between applications. Ants running up and down the citrus trunk indicate a scale, aphid or mealy bug infestation. See our [Care Guide for Controls of Citrus Leaf Miners](#).

Have your pruning tools cleaned, sharpened and 'tuned up' for their yearly servicing and in preparation for the pruning season. If they stick and don't open and close freely, they need to be dismantled and cleaned.

## GROUNDCOVERS

**If you forgot to fertilize newly planted groundcovers in September, do it this month.** We recommend **Master Nursery® Formula 49™**.

**Be sure to water new plantings** to a moisture level of about six inches deep, for plants in full sun, every four-five days or when the top two to three inches is dry. Just to name a few, Erigeron, Convolvulus, creeping rosemary, Ceanothus, and manzanita are excellent groundcovers for hot, dry locations (though they do need water while becoming established).



Blue star creeper, Woolly thyme and creeping chamomile fill in nicely between steppingstones in full to part sun and can withstand some foot traffic. For the shade, try Campanula, sweet woodruff, Vinca minor, and Lamium.

Now is the ideal time to install drought tolerant ground covers over large non-traffic areas. Use low growing manzanita (e.g. emerald carpet), Cotoneaster (e.g. Lowfast), coyote brush, Myoporum parvifolium or trailing rosemary. Do not mix the plants.

To ward off slugs and snails, bait with **Monterey Sluggo®** (safe for pets and people) or **Deadline®**. **Deadline®** is a very effective "Molluscicide" but also contains metaldehyde which is toxic to animals and people.

## LAWNS

**Over-seed Bermuda lawns with annual ryegrass and top-dress with Master Nursery® Gold Rush now for a green lawn through the winter.**



If lawns show raccoon damage, apply **Bayer Advanced™ Grub Control** to kill ground-dwelling grubs and cutworms. Lawn moth damage appears as scattered dead spots throughout the lawn, and raccoon damage appears as large torn spots in the lawn. Although it is too late to use **Beneficial Nematodes**, consider applying them next April and July. Beneficial nematodes are microscopic organisms which consume various destructive soil-dwelling insects, such as cutworms. They do not harm earthworms and are safe around pets and people.

If you have had problems with weedy grasses in your lawn, now is the time to apply **Easy Livin'™ Pre-Emergent Weed Preventer & Lawn Food** or **Amaze Grass & Weed Preventer** which contain a pre-emergent that targets weedy seed producing grasses. Pre-emergent herbicides kill only sprouting seeds and have no effect on established perennials (oxalis, clover, dandelions, Bermuda grass, etc.). For an all purpose, organic pre-emergent, use **Concern® Weed Prevention Plus®**. Whichever you choose, apply again in early February.

Otherwise, continue feeding lawns with **Easy Livin'™ Master Green Lawn Food** or **Easy Livin'™ Master Green Fall & Winter Feed for Lawns**. For organic products use **Gardner & Bloome® Lawn Fertilizer**.

Reset mowers to two inches for fescue and bluegrass lawns and one to one and one-half inches for Bermuda grass lawns. Consider leaving lawn clippings on the lawn. As clippings break down, they provide the lawn with nutrients, reducing the need for fertilizers by 30-50%. Clippings will not cause thatch.

If you haven't aerated or dethatched your lawn this year, now is a good time to do it.

Lawns seeded through October may need moisture up to two times a day so that germinating plants do not dry out. See our [Care Guide for Lawn Preparation](#).

You may consider laying sod instead of seeding. Again, you may need to run irrigation systems three to five times a week during hot weather to prevent the roots from drying. Sod orders placed with Wegman's usually take two to three days for delivery. Call us for details! Remember: You cannot use pre-emergent products for three to four months prior to seeding a lawn or laying sod. You can, however, use **Bonide® Weed Beater® Ultra** or **Master Nursery® KleenUp** three to four days before seeding or laying sod.

If you have had problems with Bermuda grass in your lawn, apply **Monterey Turflon® Ester**, which also controls annual and perennial broadleaf weeds in established lawns. For crabgrass and some other weed grasses, as well as a host of other tenacious broadleaf weeds, use **Monterey Crab-E-Rad™ PLUS** which does not permanently harm lawn grass.

For oxalis (the plant that looks like clover) and Broadleaf weeds, use **Monterey Turflon® Ester**, a liquid that can be sprayed over entire lawns. Because oxalis is so tenacious, several applications will be needed. **Monterey Turflon® Ester** is particularly effective against oxalis and will not harm lawn grasses.

## PERENNIALS

Check out butterfly weed, asters, and garden chrysanthemums. Many of the summer bloomers such as Salvias, Penstemon, and Verbena will also stay in color through fall. To brighten up the rainy months, plant some marguerites. These short-lived (two to three years) perennials offer year-round pink, white or yellow blooms and generally withstand colder spells in our winters.



Most of the ornamental grasses are in flower. Check out blue oat grass, rattlesnake grass, feather reed grass, and bamboo muhly. Grasses lend an architecture and texture to the landscape unmatched by other plants. They are also drought-tolerant and deer-resistant. Grasses are in bloom now so don't cut them back until November or December.



Be sure to deadhead as blooms fade to ensure bloom throughout fall; but not roses.

It's not too early to divide perennials if they are getting tired looking, have small flowers or dead centers.

Apply **Monterey Garden Insect Spray** or **Bonide® Captain Jack's DeadBug Brew** (Spinosad), **Monterey B.t.**, **Master Nursery® Pest Fighter Year-Round Spray Oil** or **Ortho®MAX® Malathion Insect Spray** as directed to control caterpillars on Pelargoniums (geraniums) and petunias. (See more information in the ANNUALS section above.)

A nice handful of sun-loving perennials double as both deer-resistant and drought-tolerant plants: lavender, yarrow, the salvias, Echinacea, sea lavender, society garlic, Penstemon, and Brachycome all provide excellent fall color in addition to these practical attributes.



To control Bermuda grass and crabgrass and other weedy grasses in ornamental beds, try **Monterey Grass Getter®** or **Monterey Weed Stopper**.



Bait perennials with **Monterey Sluggo®** or **Deadline®** to control snails and slugs.

## ROSES

If you order and pay for your bare-root roses before November 30th, you will receive a 10% discount on your order.

We have recommended that you not fertilize your roses after the end of September and that you not dead head them after that time. This forces the roses into deeper dormancy. Mild winters have caused roses to not become as dormant as desired. Rugosa roses will produce beautiful hips and adorn plants through winter when not dead-headed. Otherwise, you can push your roses through November and perhaps still have a few blooms at Christmas.

Aphids can be controlled by blasting off with water or by spraying with **Safer® Brand Insect Killing Soap** or by spraying with **Master Nursery® Pest Fighter Year-Round Spray Oil**, all organic and non-toxic.

Watch for (1) katydids and (2) cucumber beetles, both of which chew on flower buds, leaving holes in flower petals. Treat with **Monterey Take Down Garden Spray** late in the day when the bees have gone to bed.

(1)



(2)



Do not spray herbicides such as **Master Nursery® KleenUp** within 100 feet of roses. If weeds appear in rose beds, hand-dig or use a tool such as a hula-hoe to remove. Then, next spring, after pruning and adding soil amendment (**Master Nursery® Gold Rush** or **Master Nursery® Bumper Crop**); sprinkle **Concern® Weed Prevention Plus®** over the entire area.



Powdery mildew appears as whitish splotches on the surface of leaves and on buds and stems. To control, use **Safer® Brand Garden Fungicide** before infection sets in. If these measures aren't satisfactory, use **Bonide® Fung-onil™** or **Master Nursery® Year-Round Spray Oil**. Since the plants will soon lose their leaves, anyway, forget the spray for this year and start your preventive sprays earlier (April) next year.

Rust appears as small yellow to black spots on the upper surface of leaves, which, when flipped, show rust-colored pustules. Use the **Bonide® Fung-onil™** or **Master Nursery® Year-Round Spray Oil** (Horticultural Oil).

## SHRUBS & VINES

If you didn't fertilize in September, fertilize Conifers, Evergreen Shrubs and Evergreen Vines with **Master Nursery® Formula 49™** (8-4-4) as soon as possible.

Some camellia growers recommend a light feeding of both **Master Nursery® Master Bloom** and **Master Nursery® Blood Meal** currently to produce larger blooms on camellias, rhododendrons, and azaleas. If azaleas have started to bloom or they are Sasanqua Camellias, it is too late.

Azaleas — If your azaleas developed petal blight (flowers slowly turn brown all over and spreads over all flowers on the plant) last year, spray them with **Bonide®Fung-onil™** (Chlorothalonil) while they are in the bud stage. Do so at two-week intervals until the flowers appear. Camellias show the same symptoms but there is no control.



If your gardenias show brown buds which drop off before opening, the cause is probably thrips. Use **Spinosad** to control. Keep in mind that gardenias need an acid soil. Mulch yearly with **Master Nursery® Gold Rush**, apply **Master Nursery® Iron Sulfate** lightly in February and July and fertilize monthly with **Master Nursery® Rhododendron, Camellia and Azalea Food**. See our [Care Guide for Gardenias](#).



Four of the fastest growing shrubs for hedges and screens are black-twig pittosporum, red-tip photinia, Pittosporum eugenioides and purple hopseed bush. Left unpruned, each will reach approximately 20 feet tall and half as wide, but each can be maintained at six to eight feet if desired. Remember to prune newly planted hedges twice yearly, even if lightly. This will encourage plants to be bushy and dense.



Watch for evidence of thrips and black vine weevil on rhododendrons. Thrips damage appears as a mottling or bleaching of the upper surfaces of leaves and small, glossy black dots on the undersides of leaves. Weevils leave large distinctive notches along leaf margins as they feed. Both can be controlled with **Bonide® Captain Jack's DeadBug Brew** (Spinosad) or **Ortho®MAX® Malathion Insect Spray**.



## TREES

If you didn't fertilize in September, fertilize conifers and evergreen trees now with **Master Nursery® Formula 49™**. You can also use the **Ross® Root Feeder** with the 25-10-10 cartridges for established trees that are isolated in the landscape and not reached by existing irrigation or fertilizer.



In both San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, the olive fruit fly has rendered olives unusable for home curing. If you're thinking of home curing olives, be sure to have fruit checked for grub and maggot larvae. Finally, there is a treatment for this pest; **Bonide® Captain Jack's DeadBug Brew** (Spinosad), used in conjunction with olive fruit fly traps will kill the maggot before it enters the olive. See the [Olive Tree Care Guide](#).

If you are considering having specimen trees pruned, we strongly encourage you to seek certified or experienced arborists. The average gardener is not qualified to do any tree work. While you will pay more for their work, you can be assured that the longevity of your trees will not be compromised by poor practices such as topping. Nancy Garrison, a Master Gardener, has stated, "If need be, it is better to remove a tree that has outgrown its space and replant, with a more appropriately sized tree, than to top an existing tree that you feel is too large!" [A list of Arborists is on their web site](#). Fruit trees need special pruning, not the same as regular trees. Check with the person doing the pruning.

## VEGETABLES



Tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, and green beans should be essentially finished during October. Tear out plants this month and plant your winter garden. If these plants were infested with white flies or other insects, do not compost.

To plant the winter garden: Prepare soil by covering it with one to two inches of **Master Nursery® Gold Rush**, scattering **Master Nursery® Master Start** at the rate of two pounds per 100 square feet. Dig or till in to six to eight inches. Fertilize after one month with **Master Nursery® Tomato and Vegetable Food**. See our [Care Guide for Winter Vegetable Gardening](#).

Prepare beds as above and plant onion transplants and garlic cloves now. See our [Care Guide for Garlic, Onions and Shallots](#).

Plant cool season greens, such as lettuce, spinach, cilantro, chard, and mustard by seed or from starts currently.

Now is the time to plant cole crops from starts such as; cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, etc. All will do well in our area. Be sure to space these large plants 12 to 18 inches apart. Try kohlrabi and bok choy for deliciously different tastes. Rutabaga, parsnips and the other root vegetables can also be planted now from seed.

When string beans have finished, replace them with your favorite peas from seed. Plant two to three seeds in each hole, about six inches apart. Bush peas will bear sooner but pole peas will bear more pods for a longer time.

If you have small potatoes (one to two inches in diameter) left from your summer crop, they can be planted now for early potatoes next year. See our [Care Guide for Potatoes](#).



Cool crops, especially Brussels sprouts, are very susceptible to aphids and cabbage butterfly caterpillars. Control with **Safer® Brand Insect Killing Soap** or **Monterey Take Down Garden Spray**. Also, try **Bonide® Captain Jack's DeadBug Brew** (Spinosad) which is great for caterpillars and leaf miners, but not for aphids.



If you are a do it yourselfer, we've read that **Murphy's Soap** at four tablespoons per gallon of water is a good insecticide for aphids. Any castile soap will work as well.

If you are not planting winter flowers or crops in an area, clean it out and plant it with fava beans, alfalfa, mustard or another cover crop to let Mother Nature enrich your soil over the winter. Get seeds in the ground by the end of October. To double your results, plant bush peas for the cover crop, enjoy the pods and plow the tops under next spring.

## Ideas for special situations . . .

**Liquid Fence® Deer & Rabbit Repellent** has proved to be extremely effective in deterring deer from yards and gardens. The trick is to use it exactly as instructed.



Likewise, **Bonide® MoleMax® Mole & Vole Repellent** has proved to be effective in ridding yards and gardens of gophers and moles. The secret, again, is to follow the instructions exactly as instructed. **Bonide® MoleMax® Mole & Vole Repellent** will not kill the pests but chases them someplace else.

**HAVAHART® Critter Ridder®** and works very well in keeping raccoons off lawns. However, if the raccoons have been chasing grubs, you will have to get rid of the grubs (see above under LAWNS).

As stated earlier, mildew is common at this time of year, especially on dahlias, zinnias, cosmos, lilacs, roses, and even apples. These plants will soon lose their leaves which should be collected and disposed of. Do not compost. Don't bother spraying at this late date. Woody plants should be sprayed with **Master Nursery® Year-Round Spray Oil** (Horticultural Oil) at pruning time at the rate of five to six tablespoons per gallon of water.

Container plants must be fertilized with an appropriate granular fertilizer monthly from March through October. When you use a granular fertilizer, the amount to use is to measure the diameter of the container in inches and then divide that number by six (6) and that's the number of tablespoons of fertilizer to sprinkle over the top of the pot, (e.g. 18" pot ÷ by 6 = 3 tablespoons each month).

Consider watering indoor plants with a solution of two tablespoons of vinegar to one-gallon water once a month in order to reduce salt build-up and soil alkalinity.

Have you remembered to provide water for the birds visiting your garden? They eat up to their weight in bugs each week if they become permanent residents. Otherwise, they eat big leaves (sunflowers, etc.) to get the moisture.

Sharp pruning tools make clean cuts that heal quickly. Check out our Pruning Tool Renovation Service, which includes cleaning and sharpening and replacing missing parts for pruners. If you're unsure whether we can service your tool, bring it in for assessment. Bring them in now for their yearly tune-up before pruning season starts. If the pruners stick and don't open and close freely, they should be disassembled and cleaned before sharpening.