

Horticultural Housecalls by Kato



KATO'S OCTOBER GARDENING REMINDERS

Fall Weather is Delightful!

It's a perfect time to work in our gardens. Apply mulch or compost where needed. Remove dead and declining leaves, stalks and seed heads from perennials. Trim trees and remove dead or broken branches. Look for limbs that may be vulnerable to breakage in winter.



Fertilize!

Time for your fall feeding of trees, shrubs, vines, ground covers and perennials. Scatter a general organic fertilizer generously over and around these plants. Don't worry if it lands on the mulch or leaves as organics rarely "burn". Your plants absorb what they need and the rest benefits the soil. Continue monthly feedings of annuals, potted plants and edibles to ensure continued, healthy growth. October is your last monthly rose feeding, for the year, so they can bloom through winter.

Important Pruning!

Reshape and downsize your spring bloomers before the end of the month. Most begin to set buds and blooms in November so don't let anyone cut them until after their spring glory! These include: Dogwoods, Hydrangeas, Loropetalums (fringe flowers), Forsythia, Wisteria and Red buds.

Call me if you need assistance.



Planting!

Fall is the perfect time to plant because root systems get many months to establish before their first summer. Trees, shrubs, vines, perennials and ground covers thrive now. Cooler temperatures and increased rainfall make for easier maintenance. Use root stimulator twice per month for the first six months for maximum healthy growth. If you didn't shop for spring blooming perennial bulbs in September, buy them now.

Stunning Pots and Containers!

Freshen your bloomers to create colorful cool season looks. Check out the Dallas Arboretum, State Fair of Texas, or call me for creative pots and containers.

Happy Gardening! Kato

