



KATO'S SEPTEMBER GARDENING REMINDERS

Hallelujah!

We made it through our hardest season (Summer)! Gardening is smooth sailing and so much easier Fall through Spring. We even get excellent root growth in Winter because our ground never freezes. Planting landscapes in September and October give new plants months of root growth before Summer 2014. This is my favorite time for edibles, too. Less fungus, insects and diseases to worry about. Broccoli, lettuce, spinach, chard and peas thrive in cooler temperatures. Dill, cilantro and parsley grow abundantly when it's not too hot. Now is the time for happy gardening!

Labor Day Feeding

Acid Lovers need their 3rd dose of Espoma Organic Holly-tone acidified fertilizer early in September. Our soil is quite alkaline so we "trick" several plants into liking DFW by continually acidifying their space in our gardens. These include: Azaleas, Camellias, Gardenias, Japanese Maples, Hydrangeas, Peonies and Dogwoods. Also, Magnolias, Sweetgum trees and loropetalum. Loropetalums include Plum Fringe, Plum Delight, Fringe Flower, Chinese Fringe and Purple Pixie. The beautiful plum color will hold longer and deeper with Holly-tone 3 times per year. To further acidify the soil, we top dress with azalea soil around each plant yearly. Call me if you need assistance.

Lawns

Mid September is time for your lawn fertilizer. St Augustine, Bermuda, Zoysia or Fescue all need to be fed at the end of Summer. A general organic lawn food will help it recuperate and start to store energy for the Winter. Don't forget to gently water in any fertilizer after applying. Look for any areas that may be thin or stressed. Often, depleted soil causes turf to look spindly. In St Augustine, if you see runners that have no soil to hang on to, we can top-dress with organic compost when the heat breaks (below 80 degrees). Fall is the time to watch for lawn fungus. Call me if you need a diagnosis.

Freshen Pots

Seasonal color starts arriving in garden centers, this month. Remove spent or ugly plants from pots and baskets and replace them with fresh color. Petunias, diascia, snapdragons and lobelia love cooler weather and "pop" with color. Don't forget to feed potted plants and hanging baskets monthly so your flowers thrive!

Perennial Bulbs

You'll find me selecting my favorite varieties of Spring blooming bulbs in our area garden centers, in September. The popular varieties sell out quickly so the early bird.... you know. Let me know if you want me to shop for you as I do offer that service. I like the bulbs that come back for many years (perennial) and I want my color early, mid and late Spring. There are few good ones, that work in shade, I plant right down in my monkey grass, ivy or groundcover so they pop up with the promise of Spring. White leucojum (snowdrops) come up first. Then the daffodils Carlton, Ice Follies and Fortune. Annual bulbs, like tulips and hyacinth, get planted in my pots after being chilled for 70 days or so. If you want a colorful Spring garden, we need to start planning now!

