

SPADE and TROWEL Newsletter

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September/October 2010

Rusty

Metal always looks very good with green foliage, so keep broken or ancient tools, let them rust and make mobiles and assemblies in the borders.

~Montagu Don. The Sensuous Garden 1997~

Bulb

All members of the narcissus family should go into the garden in September. Crocus, snowdrops, chionodoxas, scillas and other small bulbs should be planted as early as possible.

Shrub/Trees/Vines

Rose Bushes Should be ordered for fall planting. Stake out the beds at this time, digging them deeply and enriching the lower layer of soil with well aged manure, bone meal or some other organic material. It is better to use bone meal in fall than in spring. But no mistake can be made in using well aged barnyard manure.

Dryas octopetala

I have a plant I got from our plant swap or a plant sale a few years ago and this year I found out it is *Dryas octopetala* (rosaceae) AGM Mountain avens, leaves are leathery, oak like, wrinkled dark green. It was very small for a long time but put on some size this year and bloomed small pink flowers it is about 8-10" wide. Sun to part shade, humus-rich well drained soil. 4' x 3' (90cm) zone 2, I had to get down real low to photograph the tiny flowers.

Wisteria:

That have refused to bloom, may be root pruned at this time. It may not be prove successful but is worth a try. Mine, bloomed 1 huge panicle last year, but put on a beautiful show this year. I had been removing starting branches and foliage and staking it, to make it a tree form. It is much easier to control, it is about 4' tall

Place orders for Tulips.

For posterity the best time to plant tree peony is during the next two weeks
Dig your gladiolus corms when the leaves turn yellow, Cure in sun if possible, I use knee highs and hang in my cellar.

Gords

For winter decoration should be picked before they are touched by frost. The stem should be cut off about two inches from the fruit which should be taken into the house to dry.

Pumpkins and/ Squash

should be thoroughly ripe before they are harvested, the riper they are the better they will keep, they need to be stored in a fairly warm place.

Prepare deep trenches in which manure or compost has been incorporated so that they will be ready for sweet peas next spring.

Houseplants

Bring indoors in October, accustoming them gradually to house conditions, before turning on the heat, so they won't drop foliage.

A nice wreath can be made with Fraser fir, winter berries, incense cedar and juniper berries. On a grapevine wreath you make yourself. If you have the grapes, I'll show you how.

Perennial

Epimedium:

E. (berberidaceae) one foot high barren wort, bishops miter are some of its names, mine is *Ex rubrum* AGM zone 5 humus rich, well drained fertile soil part shade. Shear over in late winter or early spring for best results. Divide in fall

Bleeding hearts Bleeding heart can be divided safely in the fall separate the same way as peonies.

The language of flowers

Peppermint, *Warmth of feeling*, **Peony** *Bashfulness*, **Evergreen**, *Poverty*, **Tulip**, *Red Declaration of love*, **variegated**, *You have beautiful eyes*, **yellow**, *I am hopelessly in love*, **Wisteria**, *I cling to you*.

Every flower has its perfume. **TURKISH**

When GOD blesses the harvest, there is enough for the thief as well as the gardener **POLISH**

Tickle it with a hoe and it will laugh into harvest **ENGLISH**

The best place to find GOD is in the garden. You can dig for HIM there. **George Bernard Shaw**