

Garden To Do List for September

- Days should be getting cooler by now. Fall, and the hope of a generous rainy season, will be starting soon. This may be the time to rethink your ornamental garden and replace some of those thirsty plants. Hot summers and drought will always be a fact of life here in Calaveras County so it may be wise to include some drought tolerant native or Mediterranean type plants in your landscape. If you need information on which plants may be suitable for your area, contact a Master Gardener. Or go to the September 27th Open Garden and plant sale at the Demonstration Garden, which is located by the Government Center. The Master Gardeners will be able to provide you with a list of plants that are known to grow well at various elevations in our county and perhaps sell you the ideal plant for your garden.
- Fall planting allows plants to grow more roots so by the time Spring arrives they are more established for next year. As soon as the rains come will be a good time to plant perennials, trees and shrubs. They will benefit from some mild days and rain before the weather gets too cold.
- Make sure that all fallen fruit is picked up. If it is infested with insects or disease, bag it and throw it in the trash not in your compost pile.
- Clean up annual flowers and vegetables as they fade. Pull them out and compost them if there are no signs of disease or seed heads on the plants, otherwise discard them into the trash.
- Cut back on watering if the rains have started.
- If you want a cool season vegetable garden, broccoli, cabbage, and other "cole" crops need to be planted by mid September so they will be ready to produce as soon as the weather cools down. Make sure the vegetable beds have been replenished with compost in order to have enough nutrients in the soil to feed the crops during their growing season.

by Teresa Spence, UCCE Master Gardener of Calaveras County