

Ask an Expert - Checklist for September Yard and Garden Tasks

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Fall is in the air, which may make you want to hang up the rake. Don't give up just yet, though – you are coming in the home stretch. Consider these fall tips from the [USU Extension Gardeners Almanac](#). Also included are links for further information.

- [Click here](#) if you are interested in saving



seeds.

- Learn about how and when to harvest [watermelon](#) and [cantaloupe](#).
- For storing [potatoes](#), harvest the tubers once the vines have died down.
- Harvest [garlic](#) and [onions](#) once the tops have dried down. Allow them to dry for 2-3 weeks before storing.
- Store potatoes, garlic and onions in a cool/dry location (32-40 F) away from apples.
- Fall is the perfect time of year for [planting trees](#) and shrubs.
- Go hiking in the hills to enjoy [autumn colors](#).
- Divide crowded, spring-blooming perennials.
- Check pears for ripeness once the fruit twists easily off the tree and seeds are dark colored, allowing them to finish ripening off the tree.
- Early in September, apply a slow-release [lawn fertilizer](#) to provide a long-lasting effect throughout the fall months.

- As temperatures cool, turfgrass requires minimal irrigation each week. [Click here](#) for irrigation needs in your area.

- Plant [new lawns or repair](#) insect/diseased areas with grass seed, allowing 4-6 weeks for establishment before heavy frosts.

- In compacted sites, aerate with hollow core aerator when [turfgrass](#) is actively growing in September and October.

Pests and Problems:

- To control raspberry crown borer, use a root drench during late summer to early fall. [Click here for more information](#).
- Learn about what causes bitter pit and other [problems in apples](#).
- Control rust mites in apple and pear trees after fruit is harvested and before leaf drop. [Click here](#) for information.
- Box Elder bugs congregate on sunny surfaces during the fall months. [Click here](#) to learn about controlling these nuisance pests.
- Monitor for damaging [turfgrass insects](#).