

# Monthly Reminders

## October



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES

Cooperative  
Extension

Pima County -Master Gardener Program

### **Planting**

- Plant trees and shrubs of all types early in the month. Warm soil temperatures and cooler air temperatures combine to provide ideal conditions for the establishment of new landscape plants. Although not as large initially, trees in smaller 5-15 gallon containers will establish and grow faster than those in larger containers. After planting, water daily for 2-3 weeks, then gradually reduce frequency of irrigation.
- Plant cool season vegetables from seed, such as spinach, lettuce, broccoli, and cauliflower. Sprinkle the seed bed with water during mid-day if temperatures are still hot. Set out winter vegetables plants.
- Plant cool-season annual flowers such as petunias, pansies, stock, snapdragons, alyssum, dianthus and calendulas.
- Plant citrus trees so that the top of the root ball is level with or slightly higher than the surrounding soil. Water daily for the first two weeks, and then gradually lengthen the time between waterings.
- Plant onion sets for green onions; plant onions from seed or seedlings.
- Sow desert wildflower seeds and keep moist until they germinate.

### **Fertilizing**

- Fertilize roses for the last time.
- Fertilize new plantings of flowers and vegetables with high-phosphorus mixture to encourage root growth.

### **Watering**

- Cut back watering frequency as the weather cools. Do not alter the length of time you water, but lengthen the intervals between watering.
- Desert-adapted trees can be deep-watered every 14-30 days.
- Windy weather dries out plants; adjust watering accordingly.

### **Maintenance**

- Overseed Bermuda lawns with rye grass.
- Remove warm-season flowering plants to make room for cool-season ones.
- Do not prune unless plants are very leggy or intruding on walkways.
- If you did not prune roses slightly in September, do so now. Remove weak or spindly canes which are less than pencil-sized in thickness.
- Protect cold-sensitive plants from cold nights. Some plants cannot handle low temperatures, even if it is not yet freezing. Succulents such as adeniums, euphorbias, and pachypodiums should be brought indoors. Give these plants only about a cup of water per month during the winter.