WHAT TO DO IN THE GARDEN THIS MONTH
by Mary Jane Bosworth and Carl Shafer

• Fall is the ideal time to plant or transplant trees and shrubs. Cool weather allows plants to develop good root systems before the hot weather of summer.
• For fescue lawns, November is the time to fertilize.
• Have your soil tested now to avoid the spring rush.
• Mulch trees, perennials and herbs after the first killing frost for winter protection.
• Plant spring flowering bulbs.
• Remove all debris and left over plant matter from the vegetable garden, rototill, incorporate organic matter and lime, if necessary and you will be ready for spring planting.
• Use pansies and other cool weather flowers to add color to your winter garden.
• Divide perennials such as hostas, phlox and ferns.
• Start thinking about what you want to do differently next year.
• Remove any old mummified fruit on trees, bushes, or vines and from the ground as these can be sources of disease next year. Clean up under pecan trees.
• Late fall and early winter is good time to plant fruit and nut trees. Container blueberries can also be planted now. Other berry plants are normally planted in the spring. Check local nurseries for plants.
• Plant your garlic now if you have not already done so.
• Continue to collect leaves and compost them.
• Clean and repair, if necessary, your garden tools and equipment before putting them away for the winter.

• If you are adventuresome, try a cold frame in a sunny area to grow radishes, lettuce, spinach, and other greens during cold weather.
• Most pruning should be put off until late winter or early spring when the weather is more comfortable.
• If you want to grow your own onion transplants, start seeds in December so that plants can be set out in February or early March. Use short-day or day neutral varieties for our area.
• Inventory your left over seeds. Do a germination test if you are uncertain of their viability.
• If you are growing transplants, note that the average last frost date for the Henderson area is April 21. Some seeds need to be started as much as 12 weeks before setting out. Thus, seeds will need to be ordered in December or early January to be available by mid to late January. For web resources for planning your garden and growing transplants, see the Feb 11 issue of this publication.
• Continue to plant cool season annuals. See the last issue for seeds of annual flowers that can be sown in the fall. Lightly fertilize fall planted annuals if you didn’t at planting time.
• If you are using herbicides to control broadleaf winter weeds or wild garlic, be sure to read the directions carefully. Some herbicides have specific temperature requirements.
**ROSE TIPS FOR THE MONTH**
By Heidi Moore

**Rose Variety Highlight: Miniature Roses**
Miniature roses first came into being in the 1930’s as an accidental result of rose hybridizing. Since then, many miniatures have been bred to stay small in size with the same beautiful blooms as the standard rose bush. Since most miniature roses only grow to under 2 feet and if limited space is available for planting, they work well as a border or kept on a patio in containers. The miniature rose requires the same care as the standard bush in its need for plenty of sun and water to produce many repeat blooms and to keep the bushes strong. They require regular spraying with a fungicide to keep black spot and other fungi under control. You will also need to treat with insecticide when harmful insects are present. The miniature rose comes in several varieties such as hybrid tea, shrub, and old garden rose. They are typically abundant repeat bloomers. However, very few are noted for their fragrance. You can also find miniature climbers that grow to seven feet or miniatures that are groundcovers. They are usually considered to be “tough” plants and don’t need winter protection, but discretion must be used to protect your plants if temperatures drop below 10 degrees Fahrenheit.

**Rose Terms:**

- **Dormancy:** when a plant temporarily stops growing during the winter months
- **Wind-rock:** winter winds can loosen the roots of a rose plant by whipping it back and forth in the ground. Shortening the canes to about 4 feet in length and tying with twine can help prevent damage to the root system.
- **Propagation:** to create another plant from an original, you can take a cutting from a specimen plant or make a cutting from a cane that has rooted from the main plant.
- **Fungus:** a disease which attacks roses when poor conditions are present. Black spot, powdery mildew, rust, botrytis are some common fungi. Proper planting conditions with air circulation and plenty of sun and regular spraying with a fungicide will help prevent outbreaks.

**Bud-pinching:** the practice of pinching the center of a floribunda cluster or the center bud in a grandiflora grouping to help enhance the outer buds to develop into larger and more perfect blooms.

**INTERESTING TID-BITS**
by Marty Finkel

Pumpkin seeds are very high in protein and unsaturated fats so make great snack food, but hulling the seeds might dissuade many from growing the pumpkins. The good news is that the original “naked-seeded” ‘Lady Godiva’ pumpkin is still available, and a new one, ‘Snackjack’, has been released by the U. of New Hampshire. It is small at 1.5 pounds and has high seed production at 300-plus hull-less seeds/fruit.

Cornelian cherry dogwood (*Cornus mas*) is grown in the US mainly for its very early (late February) golden flowers that persist for about 3 weeks, and its red, yellow, or white fruits in late summer. In Europe and Asia it is valued for the fruit, which can have sugar concentrations as high as 12% and vitamin C content of more than 3 times that of oranges. Fruits can also be used for preserves, tarts, juice, and wine. To develop full sweetness, the fruit should be left on the tree for ripening several days after it begins to color. Look for cultivars with very large fruits such as ‘Jolico’ from Central Europe, ‘Pioneer’ (‘Lukyanovskii’), ‘Red Star’ (‘Vidubetskii’), and ‘Yellow’ (‘Yanatanii’). These come from Ukraine and elsewhere.

One problem with Rose of Sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*) is its abundant seeding. That has been overcome with sterile cultivars, among which are ‘Diana’, ‘Helene’, ‘Aphrodite’, ‘Minerva’, ‘Bluebird’, ‘Woodbridge’, and the double-flowered ‘Paeoniflora’, ‘Lucy’, and ‘Arden’. If a smaller than the usual 8’ to 10’ tall shrub is preferable, it can be pruned to 12” to 18” high in late winter (when butterfly bushes are cut back). By mid-summer it will be a profusely blooming 3’ to 4’ tall shrub. Now there is a naturally dwarf form out, ‘Little Kim’, from South Korea, which gets 3’ to 4’ tall and wide. Each single
These 3 tid-bits are from *The Avant Gardener*, Vol. 43, No. 11, Sept. 2011

**GARDENING MAGAZINE HIGHLIGHTS**

By Carl Shafer

Key to abbreviations at end of article.

[Note from the Extension Agent: So many great gardening magazines, so little time! If you’re trying to decide which one meets your needs, the handy guide below will be invaluable. Or even better, read them all! And don’t forget, most if not all of these are available to read for free at your local library. Please note that inclusion on this list does not imply endorsement nor discrimination against similar publications not mentioned. If you know of a print gardening magazine we’ve missed that contains information applicable to NC, let us know and we’ll consider it for inclusion in a future update.

**Carolina Gardener**

9 issues/yr (www.carolinagardener.com)

QA, RR, TD, CE, NT


**Organic Gardening**

6 issues/yr (www.organicgardenig.com)

L, QA, NT

Dec/Jan12 – Spare No Expanse-Don’t let the bare exterior wall of a garage or shed dominate your yard. Give it a job to do., Curly Willow, Selecting & Maintaining Hand Pruners, Outside Art-Holiday tree for the birds, Family Roots-Family garden in Montgomery, AL, The Prettiest Vegetable –The trick to growing healthy-flavorful eggplant is in the timing, Fungus Gnats, Tech Toys(for the garden)

**Mother Earth News**

6 issues/yr (www.motherearthnews.com)

L, RT, QA

Oct/Nov – Imprelis Herbicide Recall, All About Growing Strawberries, Try Farm-Fresh American Hard Cider This Season, How to Roast Squash and Pumpkin Seeds, The Astonishing Story of Real Milk, Build This Easy Hoop House to Grow More Food, Grow Cover Crops For The Best Garden Soil, 82 Sustainable Gardening Tips, Outdoor Root Cellars, How A Chipper-Shredder can Help on Your Homestead

**Horticulture**

8 issues/yr (www.hortmag.com)

QA, L


**Fine Gardening**

6 issues/yr (www.finegardening.com)

L, NT, IA, RT, QA, RR, PG

Nov/Dec – Plant Picks, Organic Weed Killers: Safe for You?, Great side yards start with great walkways, Going the distance with grasses-Ornamental grasses, Improved Varieties of Old Favorites, Get to know your edging options, 4
Simple fixes that make a big difference, Personal touches make all the difference, Support plants let your stars shine, It’s never too cold for containers, The secrets of winter squash, Talking Dirt with – Greg Nace - president of Pittsburgh Botanic Gardens

**The American Gardener**
6 issues/yr (www.ahs.org)
L, QA, NT, BR, CE, PG


**Garden Gate**
6 issues/yr (www.GardenGateMagazine.com)
L, RT, RR, NT, QA, NA  Mostly Ornamentals

Dec – Grow Gorgeous David Austin Roses, Crazy for Color!-Corner garden, Top 6 Maiden Grasses, Cool – Season Color-Pansies, Top Picks – 11 Deer- and Rabbit-Resistance Plants, Don’t Toss That Pot! – 8 smart ways to recycle your old nursery pots, Proper Planting – Trees, Privacy on Demand – 7 beautiful ways to create more seclusion in your garden, Rooms With a View – Design a garden that’s an extension of your home, Update the Look – Redoing the 1955 landscape of an Illinois home, Make your front yard inviting and low maintenance, Create container plantings for under $25, Divide and Conquer – Dividing perennials, Make a splash with bold gold – Palm leaf liqularia

**Triangle Gardener**
6 issues/yr (www.trianglegardener.com)
QA, NT, BR, CE, TD, Free, Distribution sites listed on web site


**Southern Living**
13 issues/yr (www.southernliving.com)
RR Usually one gardening article.

Nov – Bring the Outdoors in-Using fresh from the garden greenery for holiday decorating, A Garden of Rooms-A landscape designers landscape in Arlington, VA, Gardens Checklist-Nov, Grown in Carolina: Fraser Firs

**Our State**
12 issues/yr (www.ourstate.com)
One gardening article and usually one or more of gardening interest.

Nov – North Carolina’s Sweet Simons-Persimmons, Follow His Lead – Allen de Hart – De Hart Botanical Gardens, Louisburg

**Better Homes and Gardens**
(www.BHG.com)
Usually a couple of gardening articles each issue.

Nov – Autumn Glory – Chicago garden featuring fall color, Blue Notes-Grape hyacinths, Trunk Show-Smaller cultivars of classic trees

Key:
L = Letters
QA = Questions and Answers
RT = Reader Tips
NT = New Things
TD = To Do Lists
RR = Regional Recommendations
PG = Pronunciation Guide
CE = Calendar of Upcoming Events
IA = Invasive Alert
BR = Book Reviews
NA = No Ads.
PLANT OF THE MONTH:
REBLOOMING IRISES
By Marty Finkel

From the photographs, one would think the season is spring, but there is a group of irises that reliably bloom again the fall. If you have them among other perennials but have forgotten about them, it’s a bit of a surprise to see them blooming in October and November along with asters, chrysanthemums, and the autumn leaf colors. There are many colors to choose from, and the culture is the same as for other German irises.

When planting, dig a hole wide enough to accommodate all the roots, make a mound in the center, place rhizome on top of the mound with the roots off each side. Then cover the roots with soil, leaving most of the rhizome exposed. Plant in full sun in well-drained soil. Apply mulch over the roots but not the rhizome, water well until roots are established, and enjoy two seasons of irises!

Editor: Merwin R. Dieckmann, MD, CAPTMERWIN@AOL.COM

Extension Agent: Paul McKenzie
305 Young St., Henderson, NC 27536
252-438-8188 or 252-257-3640
paul_mckenzie@ncsu.edu, http://vance.ces.ncsu.edu, http://warren.ces.ncsu.edu

Recommendations for the use of agricultural chemicals are included in this publication as a convenience to the reader. The use of brand names and any mention or listing of commercial products or services in this publication does not imply endorsement by North Carolina Cooperative Extension nor discrimination against similar products or services not mentioned. Individuals who use agricultural chemicals are responsible for ensuring that the intended use complies with current regulations and conform to the product label. Be sure to obtain current information about usage regulations and examine a current product label before applying any chemical. For assistance, contact your county Cooperative Extension Agent.

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All pictures courtesy of JC Raulston Arboretum.