



Why is Fall IDEAL FOR PLANTING?

Less Water is Needed - Fall and winter weather causes reduced transpiration, or water loss in plants. Take advantage of fall and winter rainfall by reducing your irrigation.

Less Weeds - This means less competition for water and nutrients.

Less Transplant Shock - Plants are slowing their growth and deciduous plants are beginning to enter dormancy. Dormancy causes them to be less susceptible to transplant shock. Evening temperatures result in a more moderate climate for newly established plants.

Less Pests - Pests are less active this time of year.

Milder Temperatures - Mild day temps with cool evening temperatures result in a more moderate climate for newly established plants.

WHAT TO PLANT

BULBS

Fall is the time to plant bulbs for a seemingly effortless display of color in the spring. Spring-blooming bulbs are the first flowers to show color in late winter and early spring, and only require a little bit of effort now for a big colorful show later.

VEGETABLES

Why leave vegetable beds bare in the winter, when you could use that space to grow cool season vegetables?

Winter vegetable gardens are less susceptible to pests and easier to maintain than summer gardens. However, in order for them to withstand the cold, they must have a chance to get established in the fall.

COOL SEASON ANNUALS

There are many colorful annuals that flourish in the winter. Iceland poppies, pansies, violas, calendula and ornamental cabbages can brighten-up your flower beds until spring.

LAWNS

Fall is the perfect time to rejuvenate a lawn that was stressed by summer. Grass has a shallow root system and it is hard to keep it moist but not soggy when planting in the heat. Cool weather slows the evaporation of water in the soil, creating the perfect climate to establish seed or sod.

TREES & SHRUBS

Trees and shrubs grow much more slowly in the cool season, allowing their roots time to acclimate to your native soil. Moderate soil temperatures mean that many soil microorganisms are still active, which naturally stimulate growth by breaking down organic matter in soil to make nutrients available for plants to uptake.

CALIFORNIA NATIVES

Our native plants are very sensitive to overwatering. When planting in the spring or summer, people tend to compensate for the heat by increasing irrigation on their new plantings. This often results in root rot for native plants. By planting in the fall when it is cooler, plants can become established with minimal irrigation, reducing the risk of root rot.

Helpful Tip—Sow seeds for California Poppies in the fall for the best blooms next spring.

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