

Fall Planting – The best time to Plant!

Spring is typically the busy gardening season here in Valley County but you can benefit greatly by planting in the fall.

You can plant anytime that you can stick a shovel in the ground and get water to the plant from spring to fall, but the best time for planting perennials, shrubs, and trees is fall for many reasons.

- **Planting perennials in the fall gives them time to establish healthy root systems.**

New perennials, shrubs, and trees planted in the spring must survive summer heat and stress with very young root systems while still producing enough nutrients to support months of growth and flowering. By planting perennials, shrubs and trees in the fall, roots have a chance to grow during autumn. Autumn is when plants are going into dormancy, thus the newly planted plants do not have to supply nourishment for new growth. Roots of plants will continue to grow as long as ground temperatures are 50 degrees or above. This can give them a good head start on establishing a good root system before spring growth begins.

- **Perennials, shrubs, and trees planted in the fall need less water to establish.**

All plants need plenty of water while they are being established and growing strong root systems, however planting in the fall will conserve water without the heat of summer stressing the plants and transpiration of water through the leaves is greatly diminished. Plants also demand less water due to slowed photosynthesis due to shorter days. Evaporation of water from the soil is also slowed down during the fall due to cooler temperatures.

- **Perennials and bulbs can be planted together without damaging established root systems.**

Instead of digging through the roots of perennials next fall of perennials that were planted in spring, you can plant them together in the fall. This will save transplant shock on your perennials and you won't have to guess where you planted your bulbs the previous fall.

Take advantage of the fall sales on plants, the wonderful fall weather, and the fabulous fall color that will brighten up your yard and you will save yourself some work in the spring!

