

OCTOBER 2023 HORTICULTURAL REPORT

- I will bring in my mandevilla and jasmine now.
- This is the best tree and shrub planting time.
- If it's been dry, water garden well.
- Keep an eye on the temperature because your houseplants need to come in soon. Don't let them stay out below 45 degrees.
- Debugging houseplants before bringing them in: For many common houseplants you can hold down the soil and tip houseplant leaves upside down into a basin of soapy water. (Yes, you will lose some soil.) Swish around and then spray off the soap. Replace the lost soil and top with a sprinkle of cinnamon. (Recommended by Ann DeLeo to deter soil gnats!) Keep checking for aphids, scale and the like.
- Don't need to fertilize houseplants now that they are going dormant.
- Dig up gladiola, canna, dahlia (corms, bulbs and tubers) and prepare them for winter storage.
- Cut back perennials to about 4 or 5 inches. Cut lilies down to about the same height. I stick plastic knives into the soil next to my lilies so I know where they are and don't trod on them in the spring.
- Clean up the diseased dead leaves in the gardens. Don't compost them, trash them.
- Keep the leaves off of the lawn. I like to spread them evenly across the lawn and use my mulching mower to break them down to fine particles. The lawn and trees seem too love this.
- If you compost your leaves, be sure to turn the compost often because leaves will clump together otherwise. Better still, shred the leaves before composting.
- I've never planted garlic but Old Farmers' Almanac says to plant garlic now.
- You can still get spring bulbs planted now.