

Hi Everyone,

This has been a difficult summer for me and I am sure that you all feel the same way. The heat, humidity, and rain has definitely been a deterrent for me and I just haven't been in the garden as-much-as I want to be. That's all I can say - thank goodness for the sprinkler system.

September is a good time for cleaning-up, planting; and getting ready for the fall and winter. Add some potash to your plantings and you are good to go.

Lawns:

- Will be adding root growth
- Apply fertilizer at this time.
- Prepare lawn for seeding if you plan to have tall fescue or bluegrass.
- Over-seed warm season lawns with cool-season perennial rye grass or annual rye grass
- Treat lawns for grubs.
- Seed with temps between 60 to 80 degrees.

Trees and shrubs:

- Best time to plant; amend soil, dig a proper hole, and water well. Separate the roots if they are root bound.
- Fertilize with potash (0-0-22)
- May want to start mulching your plants with about 2" mulch.
- Good time to take cuttings.

Houseplants:

- If they have been vacationing outside for the summer, it is a good time to start: re-potting, clean them up, and prepare them to come inside for the winter.
- Check for insects and critters.
- Trim off dead foliage and stems.

All houseplants should be indoors by Oct. 15th. We take no chances and bring ours indoors in the beginning of October.

Interesting facts to know about Groundcovers:

- Prevent erosion
- Add beauty in shady areas and for under plantings. - gives you a barrier between plantings and grass when mowing.
- Plant where grass is difficult.
- Usually fast growers.
- Plant in a staggered pattern so that they fill-in better.
- Good coverage over tree roots. Must plant shallow rooted groundcovers over tree and shrub roots so that they do not compete.
- Good for very dry or wet locations.

When selecting a groundcover:

- Be sure the area requirements are met.
- Shade, sun, wet, dry - must all be considered.

Planting:

- Good in the fall or spring
- Always add organic matter to the entire area and work-in to the soil
- Water the plants in and enjoy.

Maintenance:

- Keep area free of weeds.
- Water when necessary, but of course water when you plant them.
- Mulch

There are so many wonderful groundcovers to plant. Have fun looking for them and enjoy their beauty and benefit to your garden.

Any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at: EquineBRC@aol.com

Enjoy!
Barb

