

# September

## Gardening Calendar



1. **Harvest Summer Vegetables:** Continue harvesting summer crops like tomatoes, peppers, zucchini, and cucumbers. Be sure to pick produce regularly to encourage more growth.
2. **Plant Cool-Season Crops:** Start planting cool-season vegetables such as lettuce, spinach, kale, broccoli, cauliflower, and carrots. September is the perfect time to get these fall and winter crops established.
3. **Prepare Soil for Fall Planting:** Add compost and organic matter to garden beds to replenish nutrients and improve soil structure for fall and winter planting.
4. **Divide Perennials:** Early fall is a good time to divide overcrowded perennials like irises, daylilies, and ornamental grasses. This helps rejuvenate the plants and can give you more plants to spread around your garden.
5. **Plant Fall Annuals and Bulbs:** Plant fall-blooming annuals like pansies, violas, and mums for a splash of color. Also, consider planting spring-blooming bulbs like tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths in September for a beautiful display next year. – *Bulbs coming soon!*
6. **Prune and Deadhead:** Continue deadheading spent flowers to encourage more blooms and tidy up the garden. Prune summer-blooming shrubs after they finish flowering but avoid heavy pruning of trees and shrubs until winter.
7. **Water Wisely:** With cooler temperatures, plants will need less water. Adjust your irrigation schedule accordingly and continue deep watering trees and shrubs to help them withstand any remaining heat.
8. **Weed Control:** Keep up with weeding to prevent them from setting seed. A clean garden bed will help reduce weeds in the spring.
9. **Mulch:** Refresh mulch around plants to help retain moisture, regulate soil temperature, and suppress weeds.
10. **Plan for Winter Cover Crops:** If you have garden beds that will be resting over winter, consider planting cover crops like clover or vetch to improve soil fertility and structure.
11. **Pest and Disease Monitoring:** Keep an eye out for pests and diseases, especially as the weather cools. Treat any issues promptly to prevent them from spreading.
12. **Start a Compost Pile:** With plenty of garden waste from summer clean-up, September is a great time to start or refresh your compost pile.

By tackling these tasks in September, Bay Area gardeners can enjoy a smooth transition from summer to fall and set the stage for a productive and beautiful garden in the coming months.