September Garden Calendar

Vegetables and Fruits
Continue to harvest vegetables
Pick apples and pears and store in a cool place to extend freshness
Harvest pumpkins when flesh is completely orange and avoid carrying by stem
Harvest winter squash when rind is hard enough to puncture with fingernail
Plant lettuce, spinach, and radishes
Remove weeds from garden plantings before going to seed
Herbs can be dug from garden and placed in pots for indoor use this winter
Remove small tomatoes from their vines to increase late development of more mature fruits

Flowers
Plant spring flowering bulbs, tulips, daffodils, and others
Dig, divide, or plant peonies
Divide perennials, especially spring bloomers
Remove seedheads from perennials to prevent reseeding in the garden
Plant chrysanthemums for fall color
Dig gladiolus as foliage begins to yellow and air dry before storing for winter
Clean up garden areas to reduce insects and disease as plants dieback for winter
Enrich soil by adding organic matter such as peat moss or compost

Lawns
Plant or sod new bluegrass or tall fescue lawns
Renovate bluegrass or tall fescue lawns by verticutting
Core aerate cool season turf
Fertilize cool season grasses with high nitrogen sources of fertilizer
Mow turf at 2 to 3 inches and sharpen blade for a clean cut

Trees and Shrubs
Plant trees and shrubs, deciduous and evergreen
Rake up fallen leaves and compost
Prune broken and dead branches from trees
Avoid pruning spring flowering shrubs such as lilac and forsythia to ensure spring flowers
Hand pick bagworms to reduce problem in future

Houseplants
Bring plants in before temperatures drop into the fifties
Clean and wash before moving indoors to reduce insects
Fertilize before winter conditions arrive and growth slows
Poinsettias can be forced into Christmas bloom by starting dark treatment of short days

Additional resources for the month:

Planting a Home Lawn MF-1126

Aerating Your Lawn MF-2130

Fertilizing Kansas Lawns MF-2324

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