

September and October are busy months in the garden. It's the time of year when we get the garden back into shape after the long hot summer in preparation for the fall planting of bedding plants and vegetables in time for the upcoming Holiday season.

Fall planting

Vegetables

If not buying seedling transplants from the local plant nursery there is still ample time to sow fall / winter vegetables from seed. Vegetables that can be planted at this time of year include: Bush and Pole Beans, Broccoli, Brussel Sprouts, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Mustard Greens, Onions, Tomatoes and Turnips.

*Remember to look out for **Strawberry plants** which are sold in bunches of twenty-five and generally available for sale at the beginning of November.*



Cool Season Annuals

For a splash of fall colour look for: Sweet Alyssum (white, pink and mauve), Red Salvia, also in purple, white and a Salvia mix. Pansy, Viola, Petunia, Snap Dragons (available in three mature heights) Marigold, Ageratum and Lobelia.



Seeds

Can be started either out of doors in an area especially prepared for starters or indoors in specially designed individual (six pack) planters or single seed trays. All seeds have their own requirements. For best results sow the seeds according to the instructions on the package in which they were purchased. These instructions will also indicate the right depth and light along with:

When to transplant seedlings

Transplant seedlings when the new plant has grown a three leaf stem – not including the first seed leaf that is usually round and small – remove the plant complete with the root mass from their individual sections, pinch off the bottom section to allow the root to grow out, insert the remaining portion into the prepared garden area or pot – deep enough to just cover the potting medium of the root ball, firmly press the area to disburse any air that may collect around the new roots.

Protection from winter gales needs to be considered before deciding on placement however vegetables need ample sunshine to perform well.



Poinsettia and Christmas Cactus Care

Poinsettia and Christmas Cactus reach a critical time in September if you are trying your hand at getting them to re-bloom.

Labour day is used as the bench mark for the last time to pinch or prune your poinsettia and the last day of summer is the first day that both the Poinsettia and Christmas cactus require less daylight hours than dark hours.

To achieve this, place your plants out of doors in an area that is not affected by porch or patio or street lights. Incandescent and florescent lighting can also extend the light hours thereby delaying the bloom time for your plants.



*Information supplied by
Aberfeldy Nurseries*