

Practical Tips for the Fall Gardener from Rye Driftwood Garden Club

Due to the current Covid 19 situation, Rye Driftwood Garden Club is reassessing its speakers' program schedule. Please visit our website to find out whether or not our September program featuring Christie Higginbottom with "Tips from the Past for the Modern Gardener" will take place at the Rye Congregational Church. Visit <http://www.ryehgardenclub.org/> for the most up-to-date news.

In the meantime, RDGC asked its members to share a few tips and tricks for Fall gardening. The Fall may seem a time to kick back and let the garden do its thing, but there's plenty of important little details that will help your plants start off strong and healthy next spring. Keep in mind the following:

- Bring in any houseplants that were outside for the summer.
- Assess outdoor plants and decide which ones should be divided or moved while there is time for their roots to take before the first frost. The average date for the Seacoast area is September 21-30th.
- Cut everlasting type flowers, like strawflowers, globe amaranth, and sea holly to dry for later use in crafts or arrangements.
- Begin selectively cutting dead material off perennials. If you have plants such as coneflowers, cosmos, lavender, asters, be sure to leave the seed heads for the birds!
- Sow hardy annuals for the seeds to overwinter, such as poppies, larkspur, and cornflowers.
- This is a perfect time to overseed and core-aerate lawns. Make sure the seeds stay moist while they germinate.
- Rake up any leaves and blow them off grasses and evergreen ground covers.
- Cut down and bag plants with diseases for disposal. Don't throw diseased plants in your compost pile.
- Cut down any vegetable plants that are done producing.
- Don't remove leaves from wooded areas because they add nutrients to the soil.
- Do not fertilize trees and shrubs in the fall! This encourages new growth which may not harden off before the winter.

