

Garden Line

by Brent Moon - HPARD Urban Garden Manager

Time to Gear Up for Fall

If you planted fall crops in July, they should really be going well by now. Hopefully, you at least tried your hand at fall tomatoes. I am trying this for the first time, myself. My tomatoes did great back in the spring into early summer but they always go so fast! I'm really looking forward to having some delicious fall tomatoes.

I also tried growing some lettuce in a large pot in the shade. It was one of the Butter Crunch varieties and performed fairly well. It still wanted to bolt (go to seed) fairly quickly; however, I was able to get a few harvests off it, and it was not bitter. This is a good way to grow some lettuce in the warmer parts of the year. My only regret is that I did not have a larger pot so that I could grow more.



Even though the temperatures are still quite warm, it's time to start thinking about your fall garden. If your garden is a blank slate, that will make it very easy for you to add a nice layer of compost for fall. Try to add a good 4" layer and till it in lightly. Topdressing your garden with some compost now will provide your plants and seedlings with valuable nutrition when you plant in a few weeks. Adding some organic fertilizer and some granular molasses is great for feeding the soil.

Typically, I have started my fall/winter garden in late September or early October. However, I know some people who start theirs as early as mid-September. Some cool season plants, such as lettuce, will not germinate well until soil temperatures drop to at least 68 degrees, so sowing too early will be counterproductive. Cabbage will germinate in soil that is slightly warmer, but most folks buy transplants for cabbage these days, anyway. Plants to consider starting this month are listed below.





- Bush beans
- Carrots
- Cabbage
- Lettuce
- Multiplying onions
- Bulb onions
- Irish potatoes
- Mustard greens
- Turnips
- Artichoke
- Arugula
- Fava beans
- Celery
- Dill

- Fennel
- Garlic chives
- Horseradish
- Radish
- Rosemary
- Sage
- Thyme

Be sure to check in next month for more advice on fall gardening and what plants to start in October.

