

Garden Line - November 2010

by Brent Moon - HPARD Urban Garden Manager

Well, November certainly started out on a warm and humid note. As I write this it is very cloudy with a promise of much needed rain and another cool down on the way. The past several weeks have been unusually dry, so I hope you have been keeping all of your plants well-watered. Long-established plants should be fine but anything planted in the past year or two will benefit from a good, deep soaking until regular rainfall returns to our area.



November is a good time to get your winter garden going, if you haven't done so already. I started mine last month and things are off to a good start. So far I have cabbage, radishes, carrots, three types of lettuce, and Swiss Chards growing. My space is a bit limited this fall, however, since I still have peppers, tomatoes, and lima beans going; the latter two were planted in late August. I'm really hoping for a nice fall crop of tomatoes and lima beans!

Other veggies you can plant or sow seeds for now include beets, bok choy, kohlrabi, mesclun, collards, turnips, mustard, broccoli, cauliflower, spinach, and Brussels sprouts. The fall and winter season really is a season of plenty when it comes to vegetable gardening here in Houston.



Now is a good time to put a light application of fertilizer on your lawn. Grasses are starting to slow down considerably, but will still benefit from an application of fertilizer. The grass will store the nutrients until spring. Feed your lawns now to get them off to a good start next spring. Having a healthy, vigorous lawn is the best way to combat weeds, if you do not like to use pre-emergent herbicides.



Fall is also a great time to plant new or move existing trees and shrubs. As I mentioned last month, the cooler months of fall and winter are ideal for allowing trees and shrubs time to get reestablished in their new locations before the brutal conditions of summer roll around again.

Don't forget to get your vegetable garden going now and you'll have plenty to be thankful for this Thanksgiving and all winter long!