



# ELGIN NURSERY

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## Desert Garden Calendar Monthly **DO** List **OCTOBER**

### Grass

The second week of October to beginning of November is the average window for planting winter lawns. Perennial Rye will provide a deep green lawn. Mow existing Bermuda lawns to about one half inch. Sow at the rate of 10 to 15 pounds per 1,000 square feet.

#### **DO NOT USE ANNUAL RYE!**

After initial soaking, water three or four times a day for 3-5 minutes to keep the seeds moist. Keep moist for about two weeks until the seed germinates and then water once a day. You should be able to mow the third week after sowing. Mow 1 1/2 to 2 inches in height and water once a week.

### Trees/Shrubs

October is the best month for planting trees and shrubs.

Dig a hole 2 times the size of the root ball. Plant the tree or shrub so the top of the root ball is slightly higher than ground level. Run the hose in the hole as you back fill to settle the native soil and drive out air pockets.

Water newly planted shrubs and trees twice a week.

Cut back watering of all trees and shrubs by about one-third as weather cools, but **CONTINUE TO WATER DEEP**. For example, if you're watering your citrus every week, stretch this out to every two weeks.

Clean dead branches out of trees and shrubs.

Trim unwanted sprouts from the interior of your citrus trees. This makes it easier to harvest fruit.

### Flowers

This is the season for planting flowers, and Elgin Nursery will have plenty.

Dianthus, geraniums, petunias, snap dragons, marigolds, and salvia bloom continuously.

Lobelia (bright blue) and alyssum borders are popular.

If you want to plant bulbs, plant them the first of November.

Resume full fertilizing of established roses as the weather cools..

Keep spent rose blooms pruned. Plant wildflowers now for a late spring exhibition.

### Vegetables

Plant your winter vegetables in October, both the leafy kinds and root producers.

Plant from seeds: beets, bok choy, broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, chard, collard greens, endive, kale, lettuce, leeks, mustard, onions, parsnips, peas, radishes, spinach, turnips

Transplants: broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, chard, garlic, lettuce

## Monthly **DON'T** list for October

**Don't** water the lawn when it's dark.

**Don't** overwater grass. Allow the soil to dry out between watering.

**Don't** use pre-emergent herbicides where you will be planting seeds.