



# Betty's Bloomers Nursery

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## Fall Is The Second Season For Outdoor Activities...

For planting new beds, for re-working old ones, for just getting outside and enjoying a break from the hot humid Summer weather. We need to take a page from our animal friends who know it is time to feather our nests and gather nuts for the coming winter season that will be here before we know it.

## What's in Season

Fall bedding plants are available now for Winter color. Most gardeners know that Pansies, Snapdragons, Dianthus, Ornamental Cabbage and Kale will thrive in the cold weather of Winter, but you might try a little bit of variety by adding Calendulas, Violas (Johnny-Jump-Ups), or Swiss Chard. Curly Leaf Parsley and Cilantro can be added to color beds for a different textured foliage, with the added benefit of fresh herbs for Soups and Stews this Winter. Adding bedding plants to existing beds with Summer annuals or perennials can extend the life of these plants which should still be blooming. Prune back any dead branches or pull out any plants that are past saving. Adding fresh potting soil, water and fertilizer now will revitalize these old plants. Coordinate the color of new plants

with existing plants for a really good show. For instance, add yellow, red and bronze to New Gold Lantana beds, and purple, blue, and white flowers to plumbago beds.

Bring a little fall color into the house by using container grown houseplants like Crotons, Bromeliads, Bright colored Philodendrons, or yellow variegated Pothos Ivy. A new houseplant to try is the Mandarin Plant. This plant is as easy to grow as ivy or philodendron but adds lots of color with bright orange stalks and dark green leaves. Combine several pots in a wicker basket, or, better yet, let us do it for you.

## To Do List:

Gather seed from annual plants and vines to replant next year. Pick dried seed pods and remove seed from the shells. Place in airtight containers in the vegetable crisper of your refrigerator until time to plant.

Dead-head old blooms from Chrysanthemums to reveal new buds underneath for a longer bloom time.

If you are purchasing Tulip or Hyacinth bulbs for Spring blooms, remember that these plants need more cold weather than our Winters provide. Place the bulbs in the refrigerator for 6 weeks to simulate a cold season and plant in December.

More hungry birds are showing up at our back yard bird feeders now.

Keep them happy by cleaning and repairing damaged bird feeders. There is a wide variety of bird feed available now that attract different types of birds, so read labels on the seed packages.

## Something Extra

Shrubs and trees planted through the winter months get established more easily. They do not require as much water or TLC as plants planted during stressful hot & dry weather. Also remembering some basic rules when getting ready to plant can save you much work. 1. PLAN: Know the mature height and sun requirements for the plants you are choosing. 2. PREPARE: Adding nutrients with Humus or Compost helps feed the plants and improves the condition of the soil. 3. PLANT : Digging the hole twice as wide as the root ball helps to loosen the soil to allow the roots to spread, and allows water to penetrate down to the roots. Talking to a experienced gardener or nurseryman can help you make correct choices for your yard.

## Contact us

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Happy Gardening!