Dear Gardener,

As our calendars change to September, our seasons are changing as well. Fall is knocking on our door and it is a great time to tackle some chores around the yard such as fertilizing the lawn, working the old garden debris under, and making plans to plant spring flowering bulbs.

If you have questions along the way, don't hesitate to reach out to me. I know it is very easy to just "google" garden problems. But, it's hard to determine if the information you are finding is truly factual or if it nothing more than someone's opinion. Use your K-State Extension offices for help. We will provide you with reliable, research based information tailored for our area!

Sincerely,

Krista Harding
District Extension Agent

Work Garden Soil in Fall

Fall is the preferred time to prepare garden soil for next spring's vegetable garden. Spring is often wet making it difficult to work soil without forming clods. Fall is usually drier allowing more time to work the soil when it is at the correct soil moisture. Fall is forgiving too - even if you work the soil when it is a bit too wet, the freezing and thawing that takes place in the winter will break them down.

Another advantage to a fall tilling is working under the left over debris that might house insects. Insects will be less likely to survive the winter if left over plant debris is tilled under. Same goes for diseases.
Finally, tilling under old plants will increase the organic matter content of the soil. This will be easier if you mow the old vegetable plants several times to reduce the size of the debris.

**K-State Garden Hour**

Join K-State Research & Extension Agents and Specialist the next couple of Wednesday's for the "Garden Hour." All session are FREE! You can register by following this link: Garden Hour

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**K-STATE GARDEN HOUR**

**Topic:** Growing Garlic in Kansas  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 16th  
**Time:** 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM CST

Some people regard garlic as an herb or a spice, others view it as a food and some people view it as a miracle plant. Regardless, garlic is very popular with cooks today but unlike many garden crops, it has some special requirements (including fall planting.) Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent (and garlic grower) will discuss all aspects of growing garlic including: what garlic is, the different types of garlic, and the special needs and requirements of growing garlic in your own garden.

There is no cost, but we do require registration: bit.ly/KStateGardenHour

REGISTER HERE: [QR Code]
Lawn Seeding

September is the best month to reseed cool-season lawns such as tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass. We usually recommend not planting Kentucky bluegrass past early October. However, you can get by with an early to mid-
October planting for tall fescue. October 15 is generally considered the last day for safely planting or overseeding a tall fescue lawn in the fall. If you do attempt a late seeding, take special care not to allow plants to dry out. Anything that slows growth will make it less likely that plants will mature enough to survive the winter.

Seedings done after the cut-off date can be successful, but the success rate goes down the later the planting date. Late plantings that fail are usually not killed by cold temperatures but rather desiccation. The freezing and thawing of soils heave poorly rooted grass plants out of the ground, which then dry and die. Keeping plants watered will help maximize root growth before freezing weather arrives.

**Garlic Planting**

If you have an interest in growing garlic, start making preparations now by finding the variety you want to grow. Garlic is planted in the fall for a summer harvest. October is a good time to plant.

Fertilizer should be applied at the time of planting. A good rule of thumb is 3 pounds of a 10-10-10 fertilizer per 100 square feet of garden space. Mix it into the soil.

As for varieties, Inchelium Red has excellent storage life. Chesnok Red, Armenian, Music, Purple Glazer, Carpathian Mountain, Metechi, China Strip, Ajo Rojo, Asian Tempest and Silver White are all recommended varieties. The good news - Kansas has the type of climate that allows us to grow a wide variety of garlic types!

**Garden Spiders**

Are you afraid of spiders? If so, this time of year might be extra fearful for you! But, believe it or not, the large, showy spiders we see this...
time of year are actually beneficial! These are garden spiders and feed on insects. They are orb weavers and spin large webs with typical spider web shape.

There are two common species of garden spiders in Kansas. The yellow garden spider has a black abdomen with yellow markings. The banded garden spider has numerous bands on both the abdomen and legs.

Since these spiders are beneficial and harmless to humans, it is recommended that they be left alone.

Taking Cuttings From Plants

Cuttings to Grow Inside for the Winter