

## October in the Garden

**What to Plant . . .** For best results, use seeds and plants from local sources to be sure of getting types that are suited to our soils and climate. **Annuals:** alyssum, aster, babysbreath, begonia, calendula, candytuft, carnation, cleome, cosmos, dahlia, dianthus, dusty miller, impatiens, marguerite daisy, nasturium, pansy & viola, petunia, phlox, snapdragon, statice, strawflower, streptocarpus, sweet William, verbena, shrimp plant, vinca; **Perennials:** artemesia, blue daze, canna, gerbera daisy, kalanchoe, Mexican petunia, lantana, pentas; **Herbs:** anise, borage, chervil, chives, coriander (cilantro), dill, fennel, marjoram, mints, oregano, rosemary, sage, thyme; **Vegetables:** beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, Chinese cabbage, collards, cucumbers, eggplant, endive/escarole, kohlrabi, lettuce, mustard, onions, parsley, peas, peppers, radish, spinach, strawberry, summer squash, turnips.

**What's Blooming . . .** Look for the pink blooms of the **floss silk tree** later this month.

**What to Prune . . .** Cold sensitive plants should be pruned no later than mid-month to allow new growth to harden before the cold weather arrives.

**What to Fertilize . . .** Fertilize the **lawn** this month with a good quality, complete, 16-4-8 fertilizer with slow release nitrogen. Fertilize **citrus** trees with a balanced fertilizer such as 6-6-6 or 8-8-8. Fertilize **hibiscus, gardenia** and other **shrubs** with a 15-5-10 or 15-5-15.

**What to Watch For . . .** **Mites**, particularly on roses and junipers. Frangipani is subject to **rust** this time of year. The tree is deciduous and will soon lose its leaves. Spray with copper fungicide in the spring to help control the problem in the future.

### October Journal:

- Spray **citrus** with copper fungicide now to help prevent greasy spot. If you have noticed greasy spot in the past, spray with horticultural oil also.
- If bringing **houseplants** indoors for the winter, check first for any pests. You might consider repotting, or just lift the plant out of the pot to check for insects. Spray the foliage well with a fine mist from the garden hose. Cut back on fertilizer applications while the plants are indoors.
- Try raised beds or containers (at least 3 gallon in size) for growing vegetables.
- Many **tropical fruits** are in season now including atemoya, avocado, banana, carambola, Barbados cherry, Surinam cherry, fig, miracle fruit, monstera, papaya, natal plum and sapodilla.