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October - Monthly Newsletter

# Green Goods Wholesale Nursery

Go Green, Feel Good!



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## HAPPY fall fall

### KICKSTART YOUR GARDEN

As days grow shorter and the cooler weather starts creeping in, you'll start to notice many people may feel inclined to wait until spring to dig into planting. While spring certainly has its perks, fall is actually one of the best times to get a head start on your garden. Cooler temperatures and increased rain will help plants establish strong root systems before the heat of summer arrives.

Planting now means less stress on new transplants, fewer pests, and better root development. So don't pack away your gloves just yet- fall gardening can give you a serious head start come spring.

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## FIRECRACKER PLANT

Add a burst of color to your garden with the Firecracker Plant- a standout bloomer that thrives from spring well into fall. Its long arching stems are adorned with clusters of tubular red to coral flowers that attract butterflies and hummingbirds.

This hardy plant is well suited for drought conditions once established, and is remarkably tolerant of wind and salty soils, making it a great choice for coastal or exposed areas. Often used in raised beds, hanging baskets or planters- its cascading habit creates a fountain like affect.

Though considered a tender perennial, the firecracker plant may die back in winter if temperatures dip below 25°F. To help them survive the cold, it is important to allow time for root systems to establish deeply before winter is in full swing.



Whether you are designing a pollinator friendly garden or simply wanting a low maintenance splash of color, the Firecracker Plant delivers all season long!

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# To Prune, or Not to Prune?

Fall cleanup is tempting, it feels good to cut back and tidy up! But before you grab clippers, know that pruning the wrong plants now can mean sacrificing next year's blooms. Many plants set their flower buds in late summer or early fall. Pruning now can accidentally remove those buds and leave you with a bare garden next spring. Trimming now will also encourage new growth, which will be more vulnerable to disease or damage during the cooler months.

**Plants NOT to prune in fall** (They bloom on old wood):

- Hydrangea
- Magnolia
- Camellia Japonica
- Azalea
- Snowball Viburnum

**Plants you CAN prune in fall:**

- Lavender
- Hosta
- Confederate Jasmine
- Farfugium
- Rosemary



*Snowball Viburnum*

**TIP:** Instead of cutting everything in your garden back, consider leaving seed heads and ornamental grasses for increased winter interest (and food for birds!)



*Southern Magnolia Seed Pod (Follicle)*

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## Southern Magnolia Spotlight

Typically found in the Southeastern United States, Magnolias are more than their beautiful blooms, they are living fossils. Believed to be one of the most ancient flowering plant lineages, magnolias have been around since the Cretaceous period, long before bees even evolved. Fossil records suggest that these remarkable plants shared the earth with dinosaurs, which grazed on their leaves and cones.

Magnolias form a large and diverse group, ranging from compact shrubs to large towering trees. Despite being classified as angiosperms (flowering plants), their seed pods closely resemble those of a conifer, a reminder of their ancient origin.

As some of the first flowering plants on earth, Magnolias have developed flowers not only to attract bees or butterflies, but also to beetles. This is because hymenopterans (bees, ants, and wasps) hadn't evolved yet, making beetles their primary pollinators for millions of years.

Adding to intrigue, magnolias produce one of the most primitive fruits among angiosperms. They emerged long before the evolutionary split between monocots and dicots, and to this day, scientists still debate their exact classification. While magnolia exhibit several dicot features (like broad leaves and branching veins), they also bear six petaled flowers – a trait typically seen only in monocots.

Another interesting feature of magnolias is their protogynous blooming pattern. Each flower will open with female parts (the pistil) receptive first, before closing and later reopening when the male parts (the stamen) are ready to release pollen. This adaptation helps promote cross pollination, ensuring more genetic diversity, rather than self-pollinating.

### *Did you know?*

The tallest known Southern Magnolia in the United States resides in Smith County, Mississippi at an impressive height of 121 feet.





## Our Socials:

Did you know that you can find us on Facebook and Instagram?

It's a fun way to connect with us, get landscaping ideas, and see some special-order material you may not have known about!



## What's The Word?

Separated by four distinct structural features: Seed, Flower, Leaf, and Stem.

**Monocot-** Flowering plants with one seed leaf (cotyledon) emerging

**Dicot-** Type of flowering plant with two seed leaves

**Protogyny-** Having (stigma) female reproductive organs mature before male

**Protandry-** Having (anthers) male reproductive organs mature before female

**Dichogamy-** Maturing of male and female reproductive organs at separate times

### Sources:

-All photos taken on site unless otherwise stated.

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-Blum, Amanda. "Don't Prune These Plants in Fall." *Lifehacker*, 17 Sept. 2024

-Gast, Mickey. "30 Plants You Should Cut Back This Fall." *Rural Sprout*

-27, Hemali Shah on April. "Yale University." *Southern Magnolia* | Yale Nature Walk, 2 Mar. 2016

-Early to Evolve, Early to Flower

-"Monocots vs Dicots: What You Need to Know."

*Monocots vs Dicots: What You Need To Know*

-"Dichogamy, Protandry, Protogyny." *Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia*, 14 Dec. 2024



## Got a Question?

If you have a question you'd like answered, feel free to send an email to: [sydni@greengoodsnursery.com](mailto:sydni@greengoodsnursery.com) for a chance to have it featured in our next newsletter!

Contact us at **843-784-5600**

[www.greengoodsnursery.com](http://www.greengoodsnursery.com)



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Blue Daze & Gold Mound Lantana



Cerise Charm Loropetalum

## Fall Fun Fact:

Did you know that pumpkins are grown on every continent except Antarctica? Over 1.5 billion pounds of pumpkins are produced every year in the US alone, and 80% are **only** harvested during October.



Coral Honeysuckle

## What is in Bloom?

Even as some plants begin to fade, fall gardens still have plenty of color and texture to offer. Keep your eyes out for these seasonal superstars:

- **Goldenrod-** Bright yellow plumes that support pollinators late into the season
- **Muhly Grass-** Fluffy pink seed heads that sway in the wind
- **Coral Honeysuckle-** A native that attracts hummingbirds late into fall.
- **Snowball Viburnum-**