



# TJ'S NURSERY HERALD



September 2011

September is the month when things really can get hot in the garden both temperature wise and work wise. Fruits and veggies are maturing at a rapid rate and we either have to can or freeze some of the abundance or share with friends and neighbors.

Continue to dead head flowers to keep them blooming and now should be the last fertilizing of roses. A good fertilizer to use at this time of the year is **0-10-10 (N-P-K)**. Since this fertilizer contains no nitrogen, you will not promote much new growth, but you will help the plants put on beautiful flowers this year. *Gardenias, Azaleas, Rhododendrons* and camellias can also benefit from **0-10-10**. This will help the plant harden off any herbaceous growth for the coming winter and produce great flowers next year.

If you have any spent vegetable plants from the garden, add the un-diseased plants to your compost pile. Continue to weed as weeds never seem to take a vacation! In your vegetable garden, now is the time to plant your cole crops like *broccoli, cabbage, onions, chard*, and other winter-hardy vegetables. When planting new vegetables, do not forget to sprinkle some *Snail, Earwig and Slug bait* around as these pests will find those new starts and devour them rapidly.

In the orchard, keep fallen fruit picked up and disposed of as this is a place where ants and other insects like to hide. Speaking of ants, it won't be long until the ants start to invade our houses so be sure to put out baits now to be ahead of the invasion!

After a long summer the lawn can use a little help also. The Fall is the best time to do such things as dethatch it, or over-seed the lawn to make it thicker. **DO NOT** forget to fertilize the

**lawn because it needs nutrients also.**

**Oh! Did I forget to mention that now is the time to continue weeding!! Most weeds are busy setting seeds that will make next year's garden a real weed-patch. To help control the weeds that have not emerged yet, an application of a pre-emergence herbicide now can save you a lot of time and frustration later.**

**One question we get asked a lot at this time of year is, "Can I prune now?" Certain plants can indeed be pruned now, such as *hydrangeas*, *roses*, evergreen shrubs such as *Carolina cherry laurel*, *photinia*, *crape myrtles*, and other trees as necessary to improve their shape. Do not do any major pruning until next winter to early spring.**

**Dividing overgrown perennials and lilies such as *Day lilies*, *Agapanthus*, and *Hostas* as well as *Scabosia*, and *Cannas* is a good weekend project.**

**Add mulch to your garden and flower beds, or add some John and Bobs Soil Optimizer to give a good dose of humic acid to the soil now.**

**Deer will be migrating through some areas soon, so now would be a good time to spray plants with Bobbex to discourage deer from munching those beautiful plants you have cared for all year long. Gophers and moles are going to be stepping up their activities as well, so use products like Mole Max to drive those pests away.**

