

## Cynthia Brian's 'Back to Work' Gardening Guide for October

The chores already discussed need doing before inclement weather begins. Once we have a deep soaking of life-giving rain, October is one of the best months for planting, seeding and digging.

- **CREATE** meandering borders filled with perennials and shrubs.
- **PLANT** trees and bushes as the temperature cools.
- **SCATTER** wildflower seeds, especially California poppies and lupines.
- **START** a new lawn or reseed an existing lawn.
- **DEADHEAD** annuals.
- **ROOT** out any remaining weeds.
- **DIG** a pond and add a water feature.
- **CHOOSE** fall planting bulbs that will have different bloom times from early to late spring. Don't forget muscari (grape hyacinth). This fragrant bulb will multiply, growing in sun or shade.
- **REFRIGERATE** hyacinth, crocus, and tulip for six weeks before planting.
- **SOW** cool-season vegetables including turnips, peas, lettuce, rutabagas, kohlrabi, carrots, kale, spinach, cabbage, broccoli and Brussels sprouts.
- **ADD** a tropical ambiance with New Guinea impatiens, red-hot poker and palms.
- **PROVIDE** long-lasting beauty for sunny areas with ornamental grasses, geraniums and elephant ear.
- **FIX** nitrogen and increase biomass with a cover crop such as mustard, alfalfa or crimson clover.
- **ENJOY** your begonias. Once they start dying back, do not pull them out. They will return more robust next fall.
- **TAKE** pleasure in photos of beautiful gardens, such as those from Butchart Gardens in Canada. See [www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue1316/Cynthia-Brians-Gardening-Guide-for-October-Benvenuto-to-Butchart-Gardens.html](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue1316/Cynthia-Brians-Gardening-Guide-for-October-Benvenuto-to-Butchart-Gardens.html)

Our gardens are winding down and so too will we. Get to work finishing your tasks this autumn in anticipation of a restful winter. Life begins again! Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.



Create meandering borders filled with perennials and shrubs.



Feathergrass, geraniums, and elephant ear add beauty to the garden.



Sweet, delicious Mission figs are ready to harvest.



This fern grotto is reminiscent of Jurassic Park.