

# URBAN DIRT

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## AUTUMN GARDENING

No, the weather isn't much cooler during our fall season, but by the time some of the seedlings get large enough to care, the evenings have become cooler and the young plants can get a better start for spring.

In fact, Autumn may be the best time to work on new or old garden beds. It's a good time to loosen up your soil, remove weeds, plant stalks and dead leaves and add soil amendments. Of course, we should first do a soil test, we all remember that from our MG course, don't we? Anyway, I'm not telling. Oh well, just a wee hint: it concerns the words "acid or alkaline." When we get the beds the way we want them, we can work in some compost and natural fertilizers.

After the beds have been worked, here are some things you might try planting: beans, broccoli (sets), cabbage, celery, carrots, corn, garlic, onion (sets), (in October, parsley and potatoes), certain varieties of tomato sets, turnips. The following flowers can be planted now: calendula, chrysanthemum, dwarf dahlias, four-o'clocks, gerberas, Louisiana phlox, and marigolds. This is also a good time to consider planting trees. The crepe myrtles are still in bloom, so you can check for color. Later in the fall, you can look for trees that have fall color such as: bald cypress, cedar elm, Chinese elm, Dawn Redwood, gingko, 'Paul's scarlet' hawthorn, and linden.

Bulbs you can plant are: amaryllis, calla, dahlia, iris, lilies, liriop, narcissus, and ranunculus. Seeds: alyssum, Texas bluebell, bluebonnet, cockscomb, columbine, daisy, gerbera, larkspur, lupine, pansy, pinks, poppy, scabiosa, viola and wallflower. I hope you all have a lovely fall garden and a lot of fun planting it.

*Pam Libby*

### SEPTEMBER: 9/16/97

Executive Board	5:30 p.m.
Dessert and Coffee	6:30 p.m.
General Meeting	7:00 p.m.

### SUBJECT: "Backyard Composting"

Speaker: John Ferguson, Nature's Way.

### OCTOBER: 10/21/97

Executive Board	5:30 p.m.
Dessert and Coffee	6:30 p.m.
General Meeting	7:00 p.m.

### SUBJECT:

"Cooking with Herbs from Around the World."

Speaker: Barbara Ownby, M.G. Director and Herb Society Member.