



OCT **GARDENING TIPS**

How apt that the lovely Marigold is the birth flower for October. October is a month of stunning foliage with trees such as the Red Maple, Mountain ash, Persian ironwood, Himalayan birch and many others putting on a magical display of oranges, reds, yellows and copper toned colours everywhere. Shrubs such as the fiery Pyracantha, & Boston ivy are at their showy best right now. While there is still great evening light in October, there is plenty of planting, pruning and gathering to be done this month.

**Harvest remaining
fruit and berries**

**Plant young trees
and shrubs**

**Create a winter
window boz**

**Make your own
compost & mulch**

**Enjoy the colours of
autumn**

thegardendesignhub.ie
Limerick, Ireland

0851340861

info@thegardendesignhub.ie

garden design & property
styling

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GARDENING TIPS

1. Harvest Fruit & Berries:

If you haven't already done so, now is still a good time to pick Apples, Pears and Blackberries. While some are superstitious about picking blackberries in October, the higher up berries are only really ripe for harvesting now. Ripe apples and pears should come away from the tree with just the lightest twist. Any fruit left behind will soon be eaten by the birds or destroyed by wild weather.

2. Plant young trees and shrubs

Late October/ November is the ideal time to plant trees in Ireland. Deciduous trees and shrubs are best planted when they are dormant and planting in late Oct/Nov also helps to ensure bareroot trees are settled in before any real cold frosts occur. The abundance of colour through flowering summer perennials ends abruptly at this time of year, so why not start now by planting bareroot trees that will bring a great colourful autumnal display to your garden this time next year.

3. Create a winter window box:

Brighten up your home with a winter Window box, remove the last of the old summer flowers before they deteriorate. Creating a window box of evergreens, such as Buxus sempervirens or Ilex crenata (Japanese holly) complimented by the winter flowering hellebores, vinca and cyclamen will give you a standout display through the winter season. Use small varieties of these plants, a good quality planter and a soil-based compost. Come spring time, you can remove them from the window box and plant them in your garden. Other specimens such as Skimmia japonica, berried Gaultheria trailing ivy, grasses such as carex comans and spring bulbs are also great for window box displays.

4. Gather fallen leaves to create your own compost and mulch

Place the fallen leaves in a plastic bag, punch some holes in it, add some moisture, place in a cool and shaded spot and in a year or so you should have a good quality compost for free!! If you want to speed up the process, shred the leaves first and you will have a great mulch for the base of your shrubs in springtime.

**Flower of the month for
October is the
Calendula (Common
name Marigold)**

**Colours – golden,
orange, white, red and
yellow**

**Derived from the Latin
word calendae meaning
little calendar, little
clock or little weather
glass**

**Symbolises warmth &
fierceness, elegance &
devotion. Also signifies
sorrow and sympathy in
some cultures.**

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