

# September Garden Tips

## GENERAL

- ☼ [Control poison ivy](#) before it goes dormant.
- ☼ Start fall garden cleanup and compost plant debris.
- ☼ Dig and store summer flowering bulbs for winter.
- ☼ Fall is a good time for improving your garden soil. Add well aged manure, compost and leaves to increase the organic matter content.

## HOME (Indoor plants and activities)

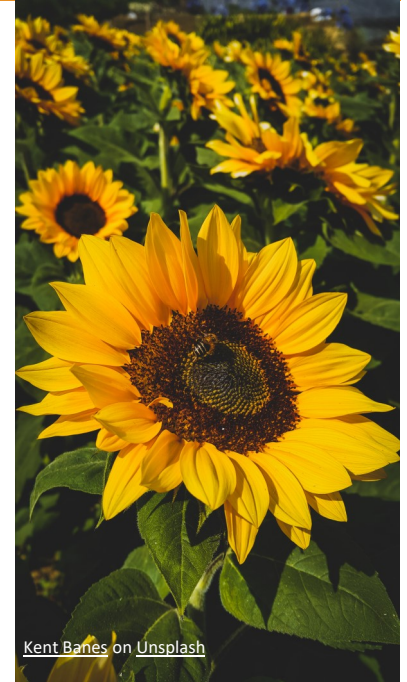
- ☼ Overwinter annual bedding plants such as begonias, coleus, geraniums and impatiens as bareroot plants or with cutting. Plants from cuttings can be overwintered in a sunny window and provide plants for next year's garden.
- ☼ Pot up chives, parsley and other herbs to extend the growing season in the house.
- ☼ Before [moving houseplants indoors](#) be sure to inspect, clean and prune them first.

## LANDSCAPE (Lawns, trees, shrubs and flowers)

- ☼ Add fall color to the landscape with blooming mums, flowering kale, and pansies.
- ☼ Lawns: Fertilize lawns on Labor Day. Reseed bare patches, renovate large areas, dethatch, and core-aerify lawns. If necessary, dig or spray perennial broadleaf weeds. Follow label directions.
- ☼ Plant peonies. Divide daylilies, iris, peonies and other perennials.
- ☼ Save seeds from favorite self-pollinating, non-hybrid flowers such as marigolds.
- ☼ Pick bagworms from evergreen shrubs to eliminate spring hatch from over-wintered eggs.
- ☼ Do not prune or fertilize trees or shrubs until after leaf fall to avoid new, winter-sensitive growth.
- ☼ Begin to [rake leaves](#). Grind with mulching mower or leaf collector to reuse as landscape mulch.
- ☼ If needed, water trees and shrubs to provide sufficient moisture and prevent winter damage.

## GARDEN (Vegetables, fruits and herbs)

- ☼ [Harvest and dry herbs](#) and hot peppers for winter use.
- ☼ Plant fall lettuces and greens.
- ☼ If fusarium and verticillium diseases have been problems on tomatoes, record varieties and try different, resistant varieties next year.
- ☼ Pears should be picked at the hard ripe stage and allowed to finish ripening off the tree. The base color of yellow pears should change from green to yellow as the fruit approaches maturity. Be sure to keep strawberry beds weed free to help make weeding much easier next spring.
- ☼ Prune out raspberry canes that fruited this past year.



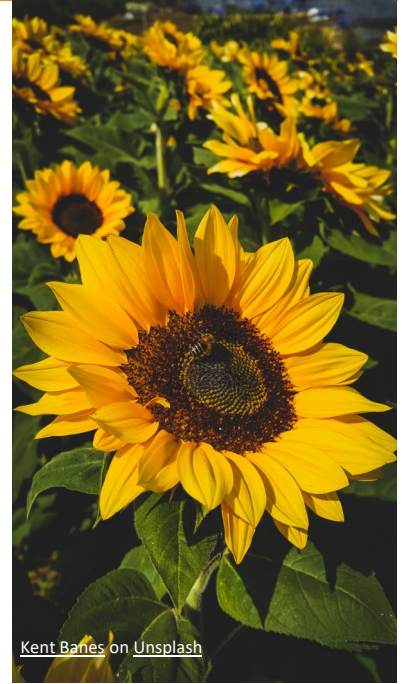
**Illinois Extension**

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# September To Do List

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## September Pictures/Sketches/ Observations

