

Doon Gardening Society Monthly News Letter – **OCTOBER**

The last monsoon month has come to an end and we are now in October.

Another 15 days or so of good sunshine and then the winters will commence. We can still expect a few more rainy days as the North winds start blowing down South/West.

The mornings and evenings are now cooler; this is the time to enjoy your favourite cup of tea on the lawn or under the verandah. Enjoy the following dish:

Garlic & Parsley Toast

Seriously, deliciously cool food for breakfast, lunch, or cut in thins to serve with a dip.

Ingredients

- 4 tablespoons olive oil
- 8 small cloves garlic, grated or chopped fine
- 2 tablespoons finely minced fresh parsley leaves
- pinch red pepper flakes or fine chopped fresh chili to taste
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 8 slices whole meal/sourdough bread

Method

1. Mix well together in a small bowl the olive oil, garlic, parsley, chili, and salt.
2. Spread mixture evenly over one side of each slice of bread.
3. Toast bread in a 450°F toaster oven or regular oven until golden brown, about 3 minutes.
4. Serve immediately.

Preparation: 15 minutes

Cooking: 4 minutes

serves: 4

OCTOBER - A BEAUTIFUL MONTH

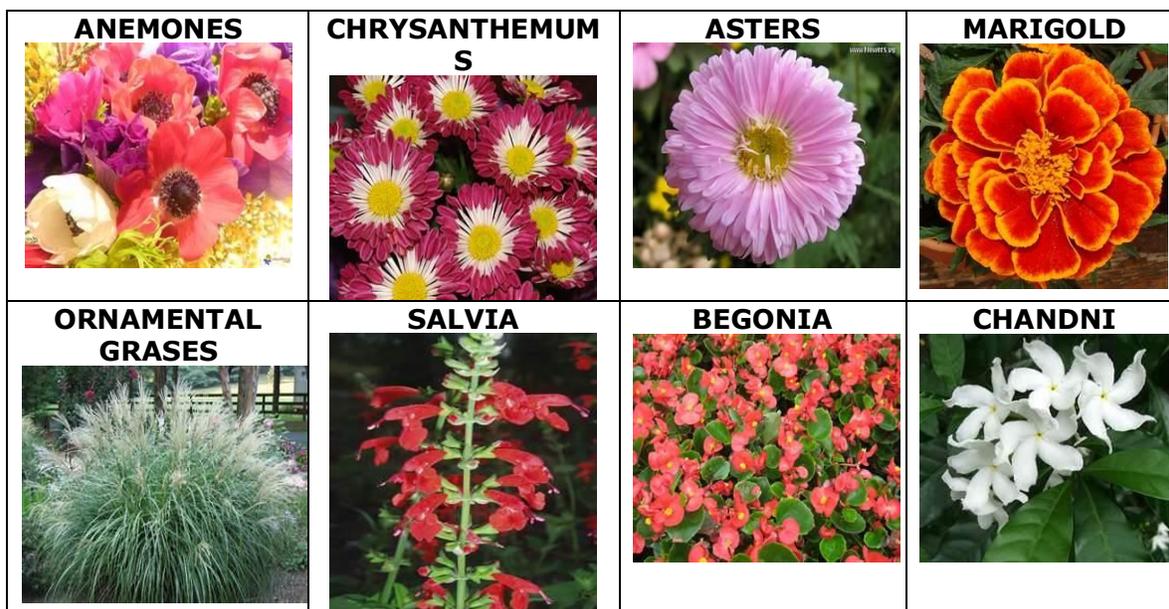
Many of us gardeners consider October to be a colourless month but in fact this is not so. If you have well planned garden with plants and trees like the Burning Bush, Camellia, Ornamental Cabbage and Kale, and Maple your October Garden would be as colourful as the spring Garden.



Garden Activities

Summer Bulbs: The summer bulbs like Caladiums, Gladiolus, Football Lily, Spider Lily and Tiger lily if already not dug up and preserved for the next season, their top foliage should be removed and allowed to dry for two weeks. These should then be dusted with Sulfur and stored in dry peat moss or vermiculite at room temperature.

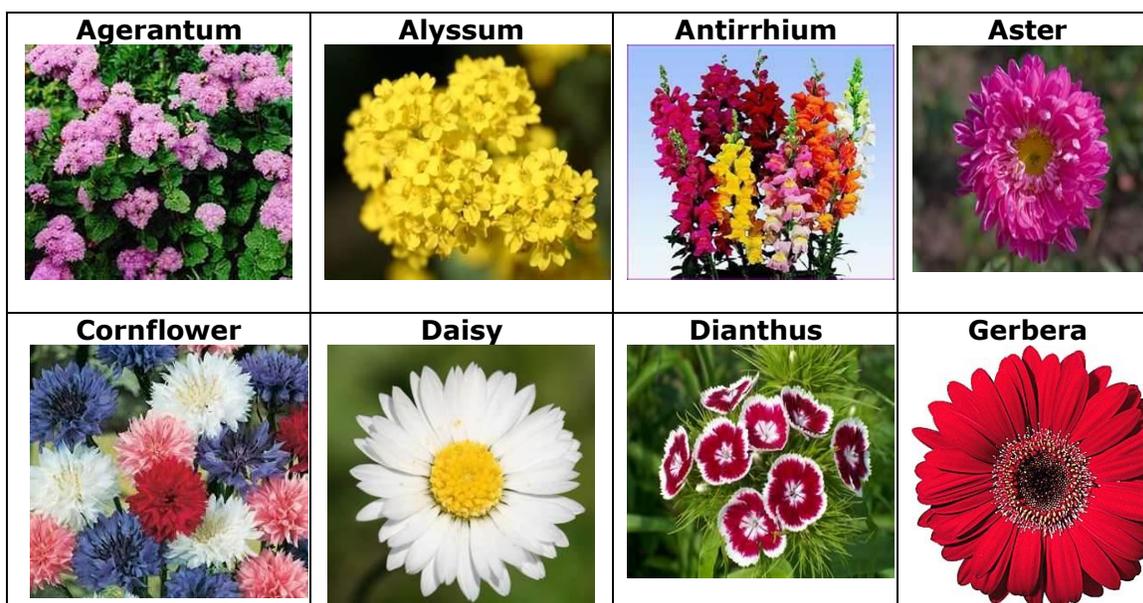
Flowers: You still have a few more days to transfer the nursery grown perennials --- Anemone, Chrysanthemums, Asters, Marigold, and ornamental grasses, Asters, Salvia, Begonia and Chandani.



Bulbs and Tubers: This is the right time to take out your saved bulbs and tubers and plant these. Some of these are:

Begonia	Daffodils	Dahlia	Freesia
Gladiolus	Iris	Lillium	lilies
Ornithogolum	Oxalis	Ranunculuas	Tulips

This is also the time for planting your nurseries for the following flower plants:



<p>Gazania</p> 	<p>Gillardia</p> 	<p>Hollyhock</p> 	<p>Larkspur</p> 
<p>Lobelia</p> 	<p>Pansy</p> 	<p>Petunia</p> 	<p>Phlox</p> 
<p>Poppy</p> 	<p>Verbania</p> 		

Feeding the plants: This is also the time to feed your plants with a good quality slow release plant food like 19:19:19 (NPK). Fertilising perennials and flowering shrubs and trees with fertilisers made for flowering plants. These products contain slow-release nitrogen, sulfate of potash, iron and other micro-nutrients for overall plant growth and development.

Lawns: October is the right time for application lime to the lawn. It is also the time for the application of fertilizer to your lawn. Apply a good quality, slow-release fertiliser, with at least two feedings between the months of October, November and December. We recommend using a 26-4-12 (NPK) in October. Aerate and/or dethatch the lawn.

Fruit and Vegetable Gardens: If you grown tomatoes in the vegetable section, this is the time to pluck the largest, almost ripe green tomatoes. Put them in a brown paper bag with some apples and they will ripen as sweet as if on the vine.

Remove all old vines of beans, squash, etc. to the compost pile and then spade or till the garden.

You can sow some of the herbs like:

<p>Brussels Sprouts</p> 	<p>Celery</p> 	<p>Coriander</p> 	<p>Dill</p> 
<p>Leeks</p> 	<p>Mint</p> 	<p>Oregano</p> 	<p>Parsley</p> 

Repot pot: This is the time to repot bound plants with potting mix.

Fruit trees: With cooler months not far, if you have not already planted the fruit trees this is the right time to plant the same --- you can still plant deciduous plants like Mango and Litchi. and decorative trees as this will give them some time to root in before the dormant winter season.

Composting: With the approaching fall the leaves of a number of your tree family will be changing colour --- yellow to brown and finally they will fall. These can be collected and added to your composite bin. It is the time to clean up your garden and get ready for the next spring.

Pruning

With extended sunshine you can still prune your plants. Roses both the local varieties and the Hybrid Teas should be pruned to a height of 18-20 inches. All the dead and dry stems should be removed. Ensure to keep 5-6 eyes on 6-7 healthy stems for the new growth. Do apply "Bordeaux Paste to the cut ends. Spray the plants with Metasystox, Nuan or Rogor. A spray of Bavistin will keep the fungus away during the winters.

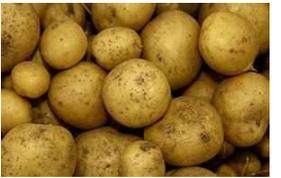
If your roses are in the ground, dig saucers 6 inches deep and 12 inches around the plant. Remove the earth for airing the roots for a week. Apply 1:19 solution of CPP. Refill after a week and apply water.

What to sow

it is time to sow the winter vegetables. To enjoy garden fresh time this is the right time to put is a few vegetables in your kitchen garden. The suggested few are:

Vegetables

Early Winter			
Brinjal 	Broccoli 	Brussels Sprouts 	Cabbage 

<p>Capsicum</p> 	<p>Carrot</p> 	<p>Cauliflower</p> 	<p>Chili</p> 
<p>Lettuce</p> 	<p>Peas</p> 	<p>Potato</p> 	<p>Tomato</p> 
<p>Radish Red</p> 	<p>Radish White</p> 	<p>Turnip</p> 	<p>Spinach</p> 

Regards and happy gardening