

The Sandy Post

Home & Garden

Fall good season to start compost



October

4	5	6	7	1	2	3
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- Plant garlic for harvesting next summer.
- Pull and dry onions for storage. Keep at 32° to 35° F. in a dry area.
- Harvest sunflower heads; use for birdseed or roast for personal use.
- Dig and store potatoes; keep in darkness, moderate humidity, temperature about 40° F.
- Western Oregon: Harvest squash and pumpkins; keep in dry area at 55° to 60° F.
- Early October in Western Oregon: plant winter cover crop of winter peas or annual rye in garden plot.
- Western Oregon: Harvest and immediately dry filberts and walnuts; dry at 95° to 100° F.
- Harvest and store apples; keep at about 40° F, moderate humidity.
- Spray peach trees for Coryneum blight with copper fungicides; spray cherry and prune trees for bacterial canker with copper spray.
- Place mulch around berries for winter protection.
- Best time of year to bait for slugs during rainy periods.
- Spray holly for leaf and twig blight with Fore.
- Plant ground covers and shrubs.
- Place mulch around roses, azaleas, rhododendrons for winter protection.
- Dig and store geraniums, tuberous begonias, dahlias, gladiolus.
- Plant spring-flowering bulbs: daffodils, crocus, tulips, hyacinths.
- Place fuchsias where they won't freeze.
- Propagate the following flowers by stem-cuttings: chrysanthemums, carnations, fuchsias, geraniums.
- Western Oregon: fertilize lawn for last time this year.
- Keep leaves raked from lawn to prevent smothering the grass.
- Western Oregon: bring houseplants indoors.
- Force tulips and daffodils for early bloom in December and January.
- Early October: begin manipulating light to force Christmas cactus to bloom in late December.
- Western Oregon: Treat for moss on roofs during dry periods.
- Store garden chemicals, fertilizers in safe, dry place out of reach of children.
- Central Oregon: Dig and divide rhubarb. (should be done about every 4 years.)

A yard full of leaves, piled up grass clippings or leftover plant material from the garden harvest isn't a mess, it's a treasure chest of composting fodder.

"Composting is the process of converting discarded organic plant material such as leaves or grass clippings into mulch through decomposing," said Ray McNeilan, Oregon State University extension home gardening agent.

"In addition to being an excellent mulch, compost is also a good fertilizer and soil conditioner when worked into the soil," McNeilan said. "Properly prepared compost is usually free of weed seeds."

Other good plant materials for composting include corn husks, pea hulls and fine twigs from trees and shrubs. Avoid using plant material

from diseased plants.

"Always compost leaves before using them as a mulch," McNeilan recommends. "Raw leaves are flat and may keep water from entering the soil."

Walnut leaves decompose slowly and contain a growth-inhibiting substance. Avoid making walnut leaves more than one fourth of any quantity of mulch or compost you prepare.

The most efficient way to make compost is to use two bins. Two bins allows one batch of compost to be decomposing while the other is ready for use.

The bins can be homemade by attaching ordinary wire fence or boards to solid posts of blocks. Each bin should be four to six feet high, three to five feet wide, and whatever length is desired. One side of the bin

should be removable so compost material can be added and removed easily.

A temporary piece of wire fence can be used to increase the height of the bin by about two feet in the late fall. After the additional material settles, the fence extension can be removed.

Build the compost pile by filling one bin with alternate layers of organic material

six to 12 inches thick and garden soil about one inch thick.

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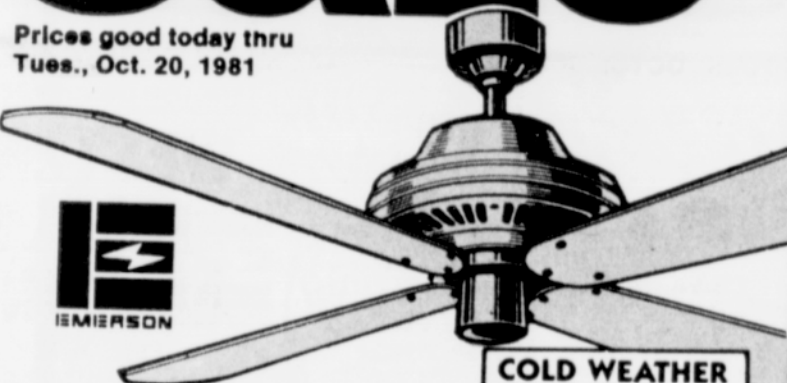
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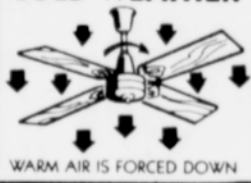
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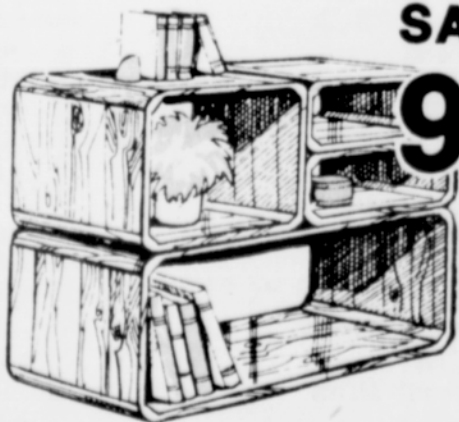
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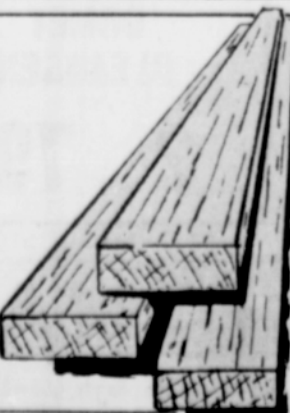
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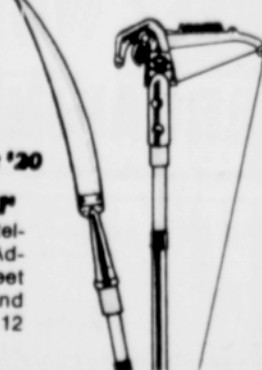
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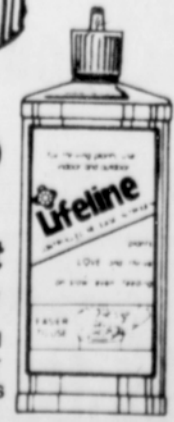
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