

September 2008

## **Extension Solutions for Homes and Gardens**

by Paul J. Pugliese

“Fall is for Planting Everything from A to Z!”

Smart gardeners know fall is the best time to plant. Fall gardening in Georgia is hard to beat - the weather is gorgeous, you rarely need to irrigate, and most plants thrive and become established more quickly when planted in fall. Here is an A to Z guide to successful fall gardening and a list of free Cooperative Extension publications that you can find online at: [www.caes.uga.edu/publications](http://www.caes.uga.edu/publications)

**Annuals:** If you plan to start pansies or other hardy winter annuals from seed, go ahead and get started in September. However, October is the best time for transplanting cool season annuals such as pansy, foxglove, candytuft, gazania, larkspur and ornamental vegetables like chard and kale. For more information, see publication B954: “Flowering Annuals for Georgia Gardens.”

**Bulbs:** Plant cold hardy bulbs in fall. Fall planting will help spring-flowering bulbs develop good root systems. For a list of bulbs that can be planted in fall, see publication B918: “Flowering Bulbs for Georgia Gardens.”

**Deer Tolerant Plants:** If you have problems with deer, you need a list of deer-tolerant plants, see this factsheet: “Deer-Tolerant Ornamental Plants.”

**Fruit Crops:** Go ahead and plant blackberry, blueberry, grapes, strawberry and any fruit trees. For more information, see our “Home Garden” fruit publication series: apples (C740), peaches (C741), blackberries/raspberries (C766), blueberries (L106), grapes (B807), figs (L163), muscadines (L255), pears (C742), pecans (C744), persimmons (C784), strawberries (C883), plums (C881).

**Grass:** Fall is the best time to plant Tall Fescue. If you are starting from scratch, it's best to prepare a seedbed. However, if your Fescue lawn just looks thin and somewhat run-down, core aerate and then reseed. For more information on fescue lawns, see publication L354: “Tall Fescue Lawn Management.”

**Perennials, Shrubs, and Trees:** Fall is the best time to plant most trees, shrubs and perennials. If you want to plant like a pro, check out publication B932: “Soil Preparation and Planting Procedures for Ornamental Plants in the Landscape.”

**Vegetables:** If your summer vegetable garden is dying down, start a new one this fall. It's a great time to plant beets, chard, cabbage, collards, garlic, lettuce, onion, radish and spinach. Many vegetables are both ornamental and edible. For more information on fall vegetables, see publication B577: “Gardening.”

**Xeriscape (pronounced zera-scape):** Proper planting results in healthy, water-efficient plants, and fall is a great time to get new landscapes established before the next summer drought! To learn more about this popular landscape design technique, see publication B1073: “Xeriscape: A Guide to Developing a Water-Wise Landscape.”

Remember, this is just a small sampling of our Cooperative Extension publication library, which contains over 1,000 free home and garden publications on everything from A to Z. Clients who do not have computer access can get printed copies upon request.

*Paul Pugliese is the Agriculture & Natural Resources Extension Agent for Cherokee County Cooperative Extension, a partnership of The University of Georgia, The U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Cherokee County. (770) 479-0418. For more information, visit our website at [www.ugaextension.com/cherokee](http://www.ugaextension.com/cherokee)*