

- september
- october
- november

fall

GRASS
COOL-SEASON GRASSES like bluegrass should be watered every two days, while fescues will do fine if watering is cut back to once a week by October. September is a good time to plant cool-season grasses, which will develop good root systems in cooler soil. Fertilize cool-season grasses in the fall; other trees have lost their leaves.

WARM-SEASON GRASSES can be watered once every two weeks or less. After mid-September it is too late to seed. Do not fertilize.

TREES AND SHRUBS
 Drop water at least once a month through the dormant season.

ROSES
 If roses have been hit by aphids, rust and other diseases, clean up and remove dropped leaves and discard. Water your roses once every two weeks.

BIRDS
 Take down, clean and store downspout feeders 2 weeks after the last migrants have passed through, or about mid-October. Provide a good seed mix and drinking water for your fall and winter visitors.

ANNUALS, PERENNIALS, WILDFLOWERS
 After a hard freeze, cut down annuals that have been frost killed. Replant the urge to clean up frost-bitten perennials. With good foliage will protect the crowns of the plants from extremes of cold. September is a good time to seed cold-hardy wildflowers in the ground for the next growing season. Water once every two weeks through

September and cut back to once a month by October. September is also a good time to plant pansies for winter color and a good time to buy spring bulbs, which should be refrigerated until planting in October, when the soil cools.

Moderate zone:
 infrequent watering

Drought-tolerant zone:
 Water rarely

MORE HELP FOR YOUR GARDEN

- The Journal's xeriscape series at www.abjjournal.com/xeri
- Xeriscape, water conservation and city water bill rebate information at (505) 768-3655, or www.cabq.gov/water-conservation
- Xeriscape information at www.xeriscapeem.com
- Look for tips on water-wise gardening every three months on the cover of *Monetstyle*. Our next quarterly planner will appear Saturday, Dec. 6

CACTI AND SUCCULENTS
 Do not water after mid-September.

WILDLIFE
 Place a bale of alfalfa hay as far away from vegetables and new plantings as possible to give rabbits something to eat other than your garden.

BUG WATCH
 Look for any large masses of webbing in shade trees, a telltale sign of the tent caterpillar. The caterpillar larvae eat the leaves off the trees, which at this time of the year are dying and falling off anyway. Consequently, chemical pesticides are not necessary. The most ecological approach is to remove the web mass with a long pole or broom.

WATER HARVESTING
 Take advantage of late season rainfall to reduce the fall watering requirements in the garden.

FRUIT TREES
 Water once every two weeks at most. In October, cut back to once a month. Since birds like peach, cherry, plum and nectarines are susceptible to borers. To reduce the number of overwintering eggs and larvae, treat the soil at the base of the trunk with borer crystals.

VEGETABLE GARDEN
 Harvest frost-sensitive vegetables. The tomatoes, before frost hits. Keep cool-season crops like broccoli, lettuce and spinach well watered until you finish harvesting.

COMPOST
 Pick up tree leaves and run lawn mower over them to cut into smaller pieces, which can then be added to the compost pile. Composting household and non-greasy kitchen waste to compost pile. Turn and moisten as needed.

NATIVE TREES AND SHRUBS
 Water monthly at less. Finish planting frost-tolerant natives by mid-September. Protect young plants from rabbit damage with wire mesh or repellents.