

SPADE and TROWEL Newsletter

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{Horticulture Chairperson}

November, 2008

Organic mix; for **HERBS** in containers:

4 parts good garden soil 3 parts well rotted garden compost
3 parts moist coconut fiber compost 1 part horticulture sand.

Water well and leave to settle before planting container.

I consider every plant hardy until I have killed it myself

~Sir Peter Smithers, noted Swiss plants man quoted in

The Collectors Garden by Ken Druse

GARDEN WORK

Finish planting **TULIPS**, ones planted 6-8" late in the season will follow bulbs planted 4" deep and set out earlier.

All classes of **ROSES** can be planted out during the next few weeks.

Plant them with the Knuckle 1 inch below ground. Be sure to mound the soil in the hole and spread the roots out. Water heavily when planted.

Clean away all dead foliage from around the **ROSE** bushes and hill soil around the tender types as hybrid teas, polyanthas, and even the hybrid perpetuals stems will keep them from drying out.

Work a trowelful or 2 of bone meal around old bush type **ROSES**, before they are covered with snow.

After the **CHRYSANTHEMUMS** are through flowering, cut back to within an inch of the ground.

Continue planting **lilies** just as long as the ground is open and you can dig.

All my hurts

My Garden spade can heal.

~Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)

Plant **PAPER-WHITES** November 14, for Christmas Day, If not much sun they will bloom later.

Garden ferns are easily divided and transplanted at this season.

Store the tender perennials in a cool cellar for the winter.

Heap Manure around established rhubarb plants.

All vegetable- garden refuse should be cleaned up. Most vines and bean bushes, except for cornstalks which are too woody, can go into the compost pile.

Most vegetable gardens should be plowed in fall so the hibernating insects will be turned up to freeze.

There is still time to move or set out deciduous **TREES** and shrubs. It is late for **EVERGREENS**.

CUTTINGS of many shrubs will root readily in the spring if kept buried in damp sand in a cold frame or cellar during the winter. This is an easy way to increase your collection or hedge. Try **FORSYTHIA** and **PHILADELPHUS**.

BUSH

Sensation Lilac, the heavenly scent will sweep you off your feet, purple petals with dramatic white edging. Well drained - full sun 4-6. Blooms summer. (I have a 2 year old bush)

PERENNIALS

I think I will continue to write about my perennials so you will know what will grow in zone 6.

GIANT - HIBISCUS

Hibiscus moscheutos- common rose mallow
Up to 8' high and 3-5' wide single hollyhock-like flowers 4-8 in. wide robust, unbranched stems in late summer and fall. Colors vary from white to pink, red some with deeper throat markings. The leaves are large, toothed and softly hairy beneath. I have Red, White Pink, and one I know is called "Pyranees Pink"

BULB

GLADIOLUS There are 180 species of cormous perennials. Most are from Africa, Europe and the Middle East. I think the ones I have are the Grandiflorus, I haven't noticed any pests. I have 7 which I have kept in my cellar in winter, suspended from the stalks. When I dig them up they sometimes have dozens of tiny baby bulbs attached, some fall right off. The new bulb is larger on top of the old bulb. Wait till the stalks yellow to dig up.

Plant corms in early spring, 4" deep in well drained sandy soil in a sunny position. Water well in summer and cut spent flower stems. Tall stems may need staking. When picking for indoors cut when lower flowers are open. Lift corms over winter, store when perfectly dry. Propagate from cormlets in spring. My Foster mother Celia grew them for the St. Joseph Church in Wilmington., A 30 to 40' row of them as well as a 30-40' row of **DAHLIAS** to!

Flowers are lovely; love is flowerlike;

Friendship is a sheltering tree

SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE

(I Thank GOD For all of you! MKO)