



Garden Variety News

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MEETINGS AND EVENTS

No Meeting for October

10/12-14/2007 Fall Foliage
Festival

10/20/2007 – By-laws to be
mailed for membership approval

DO YOU NEED CERTIFICATION HOURS?

**You can write a gardening
article for this newsletter to
receive certification hours.**

Email articles for the newsletters
to Patricia Proctor at
pproctor@wild-roses.com in
word format. If accepted by the
executive board, you will receive
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SEPTEMBER GARDEN CALENDAR FROM

PURDUE EXTENSION

IN THE HOME: Prepare storage
areas for over-wintering tender
flower bulbs and garden produce.

Thanksgiving (or Christmas)
cactus can be forced into bloom
for the Thanksgiving holidays.
Provide 15 hours of complete
darkness each day, for instance,
from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m., for
approximately eight weeks. Keep
temperature at about 60 to 65 F.
Temperatures of 55 F will cause
flower buds to set without dark
treatment.

Dig and repot herbs, or take
cuttings, for growing indoors over
winter.

Store leftover garden seed in a
cool, dry place. A sealable jar

with a layer of silica gel or
powdered milk in the bottom
works well.

Bring houseplants moved outside
for summer indoors before night
temperatures fall below 55 F.
Gradually decrease light to
acclimate the

plants and help reduce leaf
drop. Check and control
insects and diseases before
putting these plants near other
houseplants.

Poinsettias saved from last year can be re-flowered for this year's holiday by providing complete darkness for 15 hours daily from about Oct. 1 until about Dec. 10.

THE YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals and fruits)

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IN THE GARDEN (Flowers, vegetables and small fruits)



Dig onions and garlic after tops fall over naturally and necks begin to dry.

Plant radishes, green onion sets, lettuce and spinach for fall harvest.

Thin fall crops such as lettuce and carrots that were planted earlier.

Harvest crops such as tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, melons and sweet potatoes before frost, or cover plants with blankets, newspaper, etc., (but not plastic) to protect them from light frost.

Mature green tomatoes can be ripened indoors. Individually wrap fruits in newspaper, or leave them on the vine, pulling the entire plant out of the garden. Store in a cool location -- about 55 F to 60F.

Harvest winter squash when mature (skin is tough) with

deep, solid color, but before hard frost. Some cultivars will show an orange blush when mature.

Plant, transplant or divide peonies, daylilies, iris and phlox.

Save plants such as coleus, wax begonias, impatiens or fuchsia for indoor growing over winter. Dig plants and cut them back about halfway, or take cuttings of shoot tips, and root them in moist vermiculite, soil mix or perlite.

Watch for garden chrysanthemums to bloom as days grow shorter. Some may have bloomed earlier this summer, which will decrease the number of fall blooms.

Plant spring-flowering bulbs beginning in late September. Planting too early can cause bulbs to sprout top growth before winter. However, allow at least four to six weeks before the ground freezes for good root formation.

Dig tender bulbs, such as cannas, caladiums, tuberous begonias and gladiolus, before frost. Allow to air dry, and store in dry peat moss or vermiculite.

Cut flowers, such as strawflower, statice, baby's breath and celosia, for drying, and hang upside down in a dry, well-ventilated area.

OCTOBER GARDEN CALENDAR PURDUE EXTENSION

HOME Keep poinsettia in complete darkness for 15 hours each day, for example, between 5 p.m. and 8 a.m., for eight to 10 weeks until red bracts begin to show.

Pot spring-flowering bulbs to force into bloom indoors. Moisten soil and refrigerate 10 to 13 weeks. Transfer to a cool, sunny location, and allow an additional three to four weeks for blooming.

Houseplants, especially those grown outdoors during the summer, commonly drop some or many of their leaves in response to the lower natural light intensity in autumn and reduced light intensity indoors.

Water indoor plants less frequently, and discontinue fertilizer as plants slow down or stop growing for the winter season.

YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals and fruits)

Keep plants, especially newly planted stock, well watered until ground freezes.

Have soil ready to mound roses for winter protection. Do not mound or cover roses until after leaves drop and soil is near freezing, usually late November or early December.

Strawberry plants need protection from winter's extremes, but applying winter mulch too early may cause crowns to rot. Apply winter protection when plants are dormant but before temperatures drop below 20 F, usually late November or early December.

Rake or shred large, fallen tree leaves, such as maple, to prevent them from matting down and smothering grass. Raking smaller leaves, such as honey locust, is optional. Continue mowing lawn as needed.

GARDEN (Flowers, vegetables and small fruits)

Harvest root crops and store in a cold (32 F), humid location. Storing produce in perforated plastic bags is a convenient, easy way to increase humidity.

Harvest Brussels sprouts as they develop in the axils of the leaves from the bottom of the stem. Brussels sprouts will continue to develop up the stem.

Harvest pumpkins and winter squash before frost, but when rind is hard and fully colored. Store in a cool location until ready to use.

Harvest gourds when stems begin to brown and dry. Cure

at 70-80 F for two to four weeks.

Harvest mature, green tomatoes before frost, and ripen indoors in the dark. Warmer temperatures lead to faster ripening.

Asparagus top growth should not be removed until foliage yellows. Let foliage stand over winter to collect snows for insulation and moisture.

Remove plant debris from the garden to protect next year's planting from insect and disease buildup. Compost plant refuse by alternating layers of soil, plant material, and manure or commercial fertilizer.

Have garden soil tested for fertilizer needs every three to five years.

Plowing and incorporating organic matter in the fall avoids the rush of garden activities and waterlogged soil in spring. Fall-prepared soils also tend to warm faster and allow earlier planting in spring.



Carve a Halloween jack-o'-lantern.

Dig tender, garden flower bulbs for winter storage.

Gladiolus corms should be dug when leaves begin turning yellow. Caladiums, geraniums and tuberous begonias should be lifted before killing frost. Dig canna and dahlia roots after a heavy frost. Allow to air dry, then pack in dry peat moss or vermiculite, and store in a cool location.

Complete planting of spring-flowering bulbs.

PERSIMMONS

*Reviewed 9/01 Purdue University
Cooperative Extension Service*

Page 1 of 2

Fruit • HO-108-W

**Department of Horticulture
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The persimmon is native to the southeastern United States and grows wild over much of southern Indiana.

But, occasionally individual plants are found in northern Indiana. While native persimmons are not widely cultivated commercially, the fruit is prized by southern Indiana residents as a real delicacy, both fresh and in persimmon dishes such as persimmon pudding. The trees are often grown in home fruit gardens to provide a ready supply of fruit in the fall.

The wood is extremely dense, hard and uniform in texture. Its property of becoming and staying very smooth and polished under continued wear make it prized in use in shuttles for textile weaving. Its smoothness, density and

resistance to mechanical shock make it very desirable for golf club heads. A small amount of the wood is used in veneer for furniture.

About The Tree

The native persimmon is botanically known as *Diospyros Virginiana*. The species is native throughout the lower Midwest and the southeastern states. It is known to be hardy to temperatures of 20 to 25° below zero without apparent winter injury. The native persimmon is a small tree, but may often reach a height of 40 to 50 feet and occasionally even larger under ideal conditions. The tree has a round topped head and a spreading form with often pendulous branches. The leaves are oval or elliptical, tapered, shiny on the upper side and smooth or finely hairy underneath. The leaves are 3 to 6 inches long. The bark is a dark gray-black and is attractively and deeply fissured.

The greenish yellow flowers are borne on very short stalks. The staminate (male) flowers are usually borne in threes; are about 1/4 to 1/3 inches long, and contain usually 16 stamens. The pistillate (female) flowers are borne singly, ranging 1/2 to 3/4 inches in length with four two-lobed styles.

About The Fruit

The fruit of the native persimmon is round or oval, resembling some plum varieties. The calyx becomes much enlarged and is considered quite decorative. The fruit color is usually orange,

ranging to black, and the skin usually has a heavy waxy bloom. Fruit size is quite variable, ranging from 1/2 inch diameter to 1-1/2 to 2 inches in the better varieties or selections.

The flavor and quality is also variable, ranging anywhere from a flat, insipid flavor to good, sweet, quite delectable quality. In most cases the flesh is very pungent and astringent, and until the fruit is soft ripe it will pucker the mouth. But fully ripe persimmons are sweet and mellow. However, the idea that frost is required before persimmon fruit become edible is incorrect. Many varieties, including some of the best, lose their “pucker-power” as they become ripe long before frost has a chance to do its work. Native persimmons have from one to ten large brown, smooth seeds 1/3 to 1/2 inches long. Occasionally seedless forms occur, and several of these are propagated as varieties.

Fruiting Habit

The persimmon is dioecious, that is, each tree produces only either male or female flowers. This means that both male and female trees are necessary to produce a crop of fruit. The native persimmon is regularly dioecious, with male trees producing only staminate flowers and female trees producing only pistillate flowers. In only rare instances are trees self-pollinating. Only the female trees bear fruit. It is probably best to obtain budded or grafted trees from a reliable nurseryman to be sure of getting the type of trees you want and to be sure of trees with desirable

fruit characteristics. If planting seedling trees, it may be many years before they can be identified as male or female.

Propagation

Propagation of trees is primarily by seed, although root cuttings may be used. Improved varieties are obtained through grafting since persimmons do not reproduce "true" from seeds. Seed must be kept for 60-90 days at 50°F under moist conditions to obtain good germination, or seed may be planted in the fall and permitted to stratify natural in the ground over winter. The seed bed should be mulched.

Planting and Care

For best growth, the trees should be spaced at about a 20 x 20 feet distance to provide ample space for the tree to develop. In home garden situations, the trees can be grown as multiple stem plants and are quite attractive in this situation, especially where unusual bark patterns are

Even Golden — ripens in mid-September in southern Indiana, is of excellent quality and firmness. Size is medium and fruits contain 3-8 seeds; one of the oldest cultivated varieties. Very Productive

John Rick — ripens in early October in southern Indiana. Is also of excellent flavor and firmness, is larger than Early Golden. Fruit contains 2-8 seeds; productive.

Woolbright — ripens in early October. Excellent flavor but is soft, splitting when it falls. Large fruit with 2-8 seeds; productive.

Miller — good late variety; flavor good, texture firm, size large with 2-8 seeds; productive

Killen — ripens in early October, flavor is good, and texture is firm,

size medium, moderately productive.

Ennis — Seedless variety ripens in mid-October; excellent flavor and soft texture, medium size, moderately productive.

The Oriental Persimmon

The oriental persimmon, *Diospyros kaki*, is not native to Indiana and is not adapted to Indiana conditions. Hoosier winters are too cold to permit cultivation of this species except in rare and very protected situations. It is not hardy below about 10°F. This is the species of commerce and is grown commercially in southern areas of California. The fruit ranges to 3 inches across and is seedless in most varieties. Nursery catalogs frequently advertise this species, but Indiana gardeners are cautioned against purchasing plants of *D. kaki*.

Persimmon Cookery

Persimmons are utilized in many ways. They are eaten fresh, and when fully ripened have a delightfully sweet flavor. Persimmons are also used in puddings, cookies, cakes, custard, sherbet and the like. The pulp is prepared from fully ripened persimmons, which have been washed and had the calyx removed. The fruit is crushed through a colander or food mill to separate the pulp from the seeds and skin. The pulp then may be used immediately or frozen for use later. Stainless steel or non-metallic utensils should be used where possible.

Persimmon Pudding

2 cups pulp 1 tsp salt
3 eggs 1/2 tsp cinnamon
1 3/4 cups milk 1/2 tsp nutmeg
2 cups sifted flour 1-1/2 cup sugar
1/2 teaspoon soda 2 Tbsp melted butter

Mix the persimmon pulp, beaten eggs, and milk. Sift the dry ingredients together and pour the liquid mixture into them. Stir in the melted butter and pour into a shallow greased pan to the depth of about 2 inches. Bake for about 1 hour in a very moderate oven (300° to 325° F). When cold, cut into squares and serve with plain or whipped cream.

(From the USDA No. FB685)

Another slightly different recipe was contributed by Mrs. Frank Forbes of Washington, Indiana.

Syrup:

1 cup light brown sugar 2 Tbsp butter
1 cup water

Bring to a boil and set aside

1 cup persimmon pulp 1 cup flour
1 cup sugar 3/4 cup sweet milk
2 Tbsp melted butter 1 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp salt

Add sugar to pulp with melted butter. Add one well beaten egg.

Sift flour, salt and baking powder together well. Add flour mixture alternately with milk (start with flour and end with flour). Pour syrup into bottom of deep square pan first.

Bake at 350° for about one hour (or less). Serve with whipped

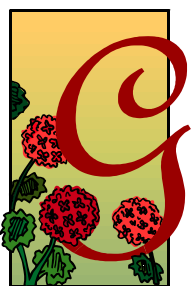
Winter Storage of Geranium, Canna, Gladiolus, Caladium, and Begonia

Michael N. Dana

Department of Horticulture

Geraniums and tender tuberous flowering plants will not survive Indiana winter temperatures. However, they can be lifted from the garden and stored indoors, or, in the case of geraniums, carried over as actively growing plants indoors. Such carryover of planting stock can considerably reduce cost for the following season.

Geraniums



Geraniums form no resting structures (i.e., bulb, corm).

Thus, they must be carried over winter as stem and leaf

tissue which is either actively growing or dormant. This is not the case for seed-propagated geraniums. However, many cultivars, notably most of those with double flowers or variegated foliage, are only propagated vegetatively and must be carried over the winter by one of the methods described in this publication. Select only healthy appearing plants for carryover. Geraniums grown outdoors often become infected with bacterial or viral diseases. Infected plants

store poorly and will perform poorly the next season. Discard any plants showing symptoms such as leaf spots, wilting, stem darkening, rotting, shriveling, or blotchy coloration.

Cuttings

The cutting method requires taking tip cuttings or slips before frost (Figure 1). Select the desired number of 3- to 4-inch shoot tips and strip off the lower leaves. Dip the cut end in a rooting hormone. Stick the cutting in a rooting medium of coarse sand or a mixture of coarse sand and sphagnum peat moss (1:1 by volume). A flower pot or wooden container which holds 3- 4 inches of rooting medium and has bottom drainage holes is sufficient. To allow air movement and prevent the rapid spread of disease, separate the cuttings so they do not touch each other. Water the cuttings thoroughly and apply a protective fungicide spray. Cover the container and its contents with a plastic bag and place in a brightly lighted location, but out of direct sunlight. It is better to keep the cuttings and rooting medium somewhat dry to decrease the chance of disease. If rot of cuttings appears, apply a fungicide drench. Apply according to label directions. Roots should develop in 3-4 weeks. After the cuttings have rooted, place each in a separate pot without plastic covering, and set in a well-lighted spot such as a south window. For flowering, geraniums need at least 4 hours of direct sunlight every day. If you're not interested in flowering, less brightly lighted locations are satisfactory to maintain growth. In the home, night temperature

may be higher than the 55-60°F which is best for geraniums. This results in spindly plants. Frequent pinching and liquid fertilization with low nitrogen, high phosphorus, and potassium fertilizer will help minimize spindliness.

Potted Plants

Whole plants can be lifted from the garden, potted, and brought indoors. Cut each back to about 1/3 the original height. Use pots 6-8 inches in diameter. After potting, water thoroughly, and begin monthly fertilization about 1 week later. Initially, place the plants in a well-lighted location to help them adapt to indoor conditions. They can then be moved to a reduced light area as described for cuttings. Apply occasional protective fungicide sprays according to label directions.

Dormant Plants (Hanging Method)

Prior to frost, dig geraniums and carefully shake all the soil from the roots without damaging the roots. Hang the. Geranium cuttings should be taken well before frost when the plant is still actively growing. Use a clean, sharp knife, and remove lower leaves prior to sticking in rooting medium. Page 2 of 3 Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service RR 7/00 Flowers

- HO-85W plants upside down in a cool dark place where the temperature is 45-50°F and the humidity is low. A cool, dry basement is ideal. Take the plants down monthly, soak the roots in water for 1-2 hours, and apply a

protective fungicide spray. Most of the leaves will dry and fall during the winter. After frost danger in the spring, cut the plants back to about 1/3 of their original height and plant in the garden. Water and fertilize as for other bedding plants. If desired, the plants can be potted up and started indoors at an earlier time.

Cannas

After the tops of Cannas have been killed by frost, allow them to dry for several days. Then cut back the tops to 3- 4 inches of stem and carefully lift the roots with a fork or spade. Turn the clump of roots over and allow to dry for a few hours. Apply a fungicide according to label directions, and store in a cool, moderately dry area where the temperature will not go over 50°F. Place on shelves or racks or hang in mesh bags so that air can circulate freely among the clumps. Do not allow the roots to freeze.

In the spring, each clump can be planted as a full clump or divided. Be sure that there is a portion of the old stem base in each division since the new growth buds are in the old stem.

Dahlias

The dahlia plant is ready to be dug when it is darkened by frost. Cut the top back to 4-5 inches, and lift gently with a fork or spade so as not to injure the tuberous roots. Remove as much of the soil as possible without damaging the roots. Only save roots from healthy plants. Apply a protective fungicide spray and allow the roots to dry in the air for several hours. Then store in a

dry, cool, frost-proof area. If the air is very dry, the roots may shrivel. To avoid this, wrap the clumps in newspapers or pack them in barrels or boxes of peat moss, vermiculite, dry sawdust, or sand. Divide the tubers soon after digging because the eyes or buds are easier to see in the fall. Each tuber must have at least one eye. Treat all cut ends with a fungicide before storage. Check the condition of the roots several times during the winter. Discard any which show signs of decay.

Gladioli

Gladiolus corms should be dug after frost. Although some growers dig the corms of early flowering cultivars 6-8 weeks after flowering, well before frost, this is not necessary. It is, however, critical to allow all corms to mature as fully as possible prior to digging.

Dig the corms of healthy plants with a fork or spade so that the entire plant can easily be removed by grasping the top and pulling the plant out of the soil.

Avoid bruising or injuring corms while digging and handling. Shake off all loose soil and discard damaged, discolored, or diseased corms. Cut the top off 1-2 inches above the corm. Save the small cormels separately if you so desire. Allow the corms to dry in the sun for 1 or 2 days. Canna tuberous roots do not have buds or growth points. Buds are located in the old stem base. When dividing, be sure a portion of the stem is included with each root division.

The tuberous root of dahlia resembles a sweet potato. Note the bud located at the base of the

old stem, a region often called the crown. Gladiolus corms form immediately above the old corm. Small corms called cormels form around the base of the new corm. They can be planted but will require 2-3 years to reach blooming size. RR 7/00 Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service Page 3 of 3 Flowers • HO-85W

Place the soil and root masses in a dry, cool storage area, and allow the tubers to cure for 2-3 weeks. Then remove the balance of the soil, stalks, and roots, cut out any rotted spots, and spray or dust with fungicide.

Store the tubers at 50°F in low humidity. Pack the tubers in dry peat, sand, sawdust, or vermiculite to prevent excessive moisture loss. Cooperative Extension work in Agriculture and Home Economics, state of Indiana, Purdue University, and U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating; H. A. Wadsworth, Director, West Lafayette, IN. Issued in furtherance of the acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914. The Cooperative Extension Service of Purdue University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution. For more information on the subject discussed in this publication, consult your local office of the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service. Gladiolus corms are often infected with various disease producing fungi which reduce stand, plant, and spike size. To avoid disease problems in storage, dust freshly dug, clean corms with a fungicide and insecticide. Place dust (single aspirin tablet quantity for each quart of corms) and corms in a

paper sack and shake vigorously to coat the corms uniformly.

After drying, sift out excess soil and place corms in wooden flats or trays. For best results, cure at a temperature of 80-85°F for 2-3 weeks. Avoid fluctuating temperatures, which cause moisture condensation on the corms and increase the chance of disease. When thoroughly cured, the old corm should be broken from the base of the new one and discarded. Two to three additional days at 80°F will hasten the formation of a corky layer at the scar. For winter storage, place the corms in paper boxes, open paper bags, cloth bags, wooden trays with screen bottoms, or old onion sacks. Stack or hang the containers so air can move among them. Store the corms at 35-40°F in low humidity. A cool basement is quite suitable. Do not allow corms to freeze.

see the illustrations as described above.

Caladiums and Tuberous Begonias

When the tops of caladiums and tuberous begonias are injured by the first fall frost, gently lift the plants and cut back the stem to the soil line. Leave the ball of roots and soil intact. Caladium forms a true tuber or enlarged underground stem. New tubers grow from the sides of the original one. Buds are localized near the top of the tuber. The tuberous begonia tuber is disk shaped. It enlarges as it grows, but does not form multiple tubers. roots arise from any part of the tuber surface. Buds are found in the top center of the tuber near the stem base.

Note: These handouts should be in your books. Please review to