

City of Olivette  
Parks & Recreation

## Late Summer Lawn & Gardens Ideas from Olivette In Bloom

Our summer gardens have peaked. It's time to enjoy the final bloom, do the last weeding, and begin planning for fall, winter, and spring. House plants that spent the summer outdoors should be cleaned up, checked for pests, and treated if necessary before they are brought inside prior to the first frost. Spring blooming perennials can be divided and relocated (or shared with friends and neighbors) now. Divide peonies now, relocate in a sunny location, and avoid planting too deeply.

Many gardeners will be planting bulbs this fall. Daffodils, jonquils, narcissi, and crocus should be planted as soon as they're available to ensure strong root systems. Tulips do not benefit from early planting. Instead, tulip bulbs should be stored in a cool, dark place until planted in late October or early November.

Most lawns are best fertilized in the fall. Make up to three applications; one on Labor Day, another at Halloween, and the last around Thanksgiving. Begin fall lawn seeding now and plan to finish by October 15. Keep newly planted lawn areas moist but not wet. Broadleaf herbicides can be

applied in October to control cool season weeds such as chickweed and dandelion.

To create winter interest in your garden, leave ornamental grasses alone.

The flowers and foliage look beautiful with frost or snow. Consider leaving the last roses on the bush. The blooms will form rose hips that turn a beautiful shade of red in winter.

Please send your lawn and garden questions or suggestions to [www.olivetteinbloom.org](http://www.olivetteinbloom.org) or leave a message at 872-8897. Our volunteer master gardeners always welcome the opportunity to exchange information. Our final group workdays for 2006 begin at 9 am:

Sat. October 21 – Olivette Community Center Garden

Sat. October 28 – Veteran's Memorial Garden

Sat. November 4 – Stacy Park Garden

We'd love to see you there!

