

INSIDE GRUNDY COUNTY
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My last column discussed late summer seeding of lawns and mowing height. This column will review other plants well suited to late summer and fall planting and basic planting tips. Mid-August to mid-September is a good time to plant trees, shrubs, perennials and spring-flowering bulbs.

The following tips come from Richard Jauron, ISU Extension Horticulturalist, in the Aug. 23, 2003, edition of Horticulture and Home Pest News.

“Balled, burlapped and container-grown trees and shrubs also can be planted in late summer and fall. Mid-August through September is an excellent time to plant evergreens, such as pine and spruce. Evergreens planted in late October or November may not have adequate time to become established before the onset of winter and could be subject to desiccation, injury and death.

Deciduous trees and shrubs (those that drop their leaves in the fall) can be planted from August through early November.

While most trees and shrubs do well when planted in late summer or fall, some woody plants are slow to establish and are best planted in spring. Trees that are best planted in the spring include fir, birch, yellowwood, ginkgo, magnolia, ornamental pear, oak and hemlock. Trees that are planted in late summer or early fall should be watered every seven to ten days during dry weather. Continue watering until the ground freezes.

Late summer/early fall is an excellent time to plant many perennials. It is also a good time to move or divide perennials, such as peony, daylily, garden phlox and Oriental poppy. Perennials planted in late summer or early fall should be mulched with 4-6 inches of straw, pine needles or

other materials in late fall. Mulching helps prevent repeated freezing and thawing of the soil that can heave plants out of the ground. Drying of the exposed plant crowns and roots can cause severe damage or death.

Also, October is the ideal time to plant tulips, daffodils and other spring flowering bulbs. Planting bulbs in groups or clusters helps achieve maximum visual impact. Bulbs planted individually or in single rows are generally not as effective. Spring flowering bulbs can be planted as late as December if the ground remains unfrozen.”

If you have questions on late summer or fall planting, contact the Grundy office of ISU Extension at 319-824-6979.