**Hort-bull October Calendar**

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October is cole crop month. Plant your broccoli, cabbage, Brussels sprouts and collards transplants. It is also a good time to plant radish, beets, carrots, rutabagas, spinach and onions by seed.

In the flower garden, snapdragon, stocks, dianthus and calendula transplants can be planted. Bluebonnet transplants are available at some nurseries. It is also a good time to plant wildflower seeds. Wait on pansies, cyclamen and primulas until next month.

It is a good time to thin and replant perennials like Fanick phlox, iris, shasta daisies, German carnations and daylilies. Iris and daylilies can go many years without thinning, but some of the perennials decline within several years unless the planting is refreshed by thinning and replanting. Shasta daisies, phlox and carnations are such plants. Divide an 18-inch clump into four new plants and replant with 18-24 inches between the new plants.

For fall-blooming perennials like garden mums and fall asters, separate them after they finish blooming.

October is a great month to plant new shrubs and shade trees. Selection is not always the best, but many nurseries have sales on their end-of-year stock.

Trees and shrubs planted in the autumn have several months to grow root systems before they are challenged by the summer heat and drought.

My favorite shade trees are live oak, Texas red oak, cedar elm, Mexican white oak, bur oak, chinkapin oak, Mexican sycamore, Montezuma cypress and Chinese pistache.

The recommended shrubs are holly, nandina, viburnum, pittosporum, elaeagnus, Texas mountain laurel and cenizo.

Hollies, nandina and viburnum have shade tolerance and come in many size versions. Pittosporum has shade tolerance as well, but only use the standard size. The dwarf version has disease problems.

Dig the hole as deep as the root ball and 2-3 times as wide. Put 3-4 inches of mulch over the root ball. Water the plant in generously and add water when the soil dries under the mulch. Planting additives are not recommended, because they are not a factor in growth rate or survivability. In fact, adding compost to the planting hole may contribute to root rot during rainy springs. The planting hole needs to drain rather than serve as a well. If you have compost, use it as mulch or incorporate it into the soil over a large area around the newly planted tree or shrub.