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**University of California**  
Agriculture and Natural Resources



## October in the Garden:

What to plant:

- ⇒ Cool-weather annuals like pansies, violas, snapdragons can be transplanted now. Also, you can direct seed cornflower, nasturtium, poppy, nigella, portulaca and sweet peas.
- ⇒ If you don't have a winter garden, consider planting a cover crop to be tilled in next spring.
- ⇒ Direct seed peas, spinach, radishes, lettuce, and carrots.
- ⇒ Early in the month you should buy your new bulbs and refrigerate them for six weeks before planting them in the garden.
- October is also good time to consider reducing the size of your lawn. You can still rejuvenate a lawn with over-seeding.
- Put your spent annuals and vegetables (disease-free, of course) in your compost pile.
- Add compost to the beds that had the annuals and vegetables you are pulling out, before re-planting in those beds.
- This is also the month to dig, divide, and re-plant overgrown perennials that have finished blooming. Be sure to clear out any weeds that developed in the perennial bed.
- Check azaleas, gardenias and camellias for leaves yellowing between the veins. Apply chelated iron if this condition is present.
- If you had glads, dahlias or tuberous begonias they should be dug up and cleaned after the foliage dies. Store the corms and tubers in a cool, dry place.
- Be sure to deadhead your roses following the October bloom.
- Keep your compost bin covered with a plastic tarp when rains begin.

