

# November Tasks

What tasks should you be considering for November? Here are some suggestions.

- Don't throw away that Halloween pumpkin! Squirrels love pumpkins. Instead, put the pumpkin at the back of your garden to be enjoyed by wildlife.
- November is a great time to plant roses and woody ornamental shrubs. Their roots can get established before the colder winter months giving them a head start over shrubs that are planted in the spring. Just remember to protect them if an unexpected early frost comes.
- As your leaves fall from the trees, you might be tempted to bag them and send them to a landfill. Instead, consider these [Earth-Kind® principles to handle yard waste](#).
- Now that the heat has passed and the weather is cooler but not cold, add a layer of mulch to your garden beds. This will help protect the roots from freeze damage in the coming winter months. As added benefits, mulch helps control weeds reducing your weeding work and helps soil retain water reducing your watering needs. Two to six inches of mulch are recommended depending on the type of mulch and the garden bed. Learn [more about mulching](#) from Aggie Horticulture.
- Take care of your winter vegetable garden. Winter vegetables still need to be fertilized. Also, if there is little rain, make sure to water as needed.
- November is the right time to plant certain winter vegetables, including turnips, lettuce, radishes, and spinach. Check out the [fall vegetable planting guide](#) for more information.
- If you want to transplant a shrub, late November is a good time to do so. Because the plants are dormant, they will not suffer as much shock as transplanting during their growing season.
- If you have tender plants that you want to protect from the winter, consider digging them up and putting them in pots that can be easily moved into protected spots during freezes.
- Gather up materials to protect immovable plants during freezes. Learn [how to protect your plants](#).



- If you have not already done so, trim your tropical milkweed and keep it trimmed to 6 inches throughout the rest of the fall and winter months. Learn [how to identify tropical milkweed and how it threatens Monarch butterflies](#).
- Consider turning your automated irrigation system off or reducing the watering times. Your plants are growing less and there is more rain so less water is needed. Use the [online calculator to determine how much irrigation your yard needs](#).
- If you are thinking about hard pruning your crape myrtles this month...don't! Master Gardeners do not recommend this. We call this "crape murder." Read more about [this botanical crime and what to do instead](#).
- Have a great Thanksgiving!

## November Color in Fort Bend County

Looking for a great Texas Superstar® to plant for this time of the year? The Tidal Wave™ Silver and Cherry Petunia (*Petunia x hybrida* 'Tidal Wave Silver' and 'Tidal Wave Cherry') will bring color to your fall landscape.

These annual plants can be planted in October or November for late-winter and early-spring color. These vigorous petunias are more heat, disease, and cold tolerant than your typical petunia and will make a nice addition to the front of your garden. Here is more information :

- Grows in full sun
- Grows to height of 18 – 20 inches and can spread up to 4 feet
- Works well in most soils
- Thrives with regular drip irrigation and fertilization.



*Photo courtesy of texassuperstar.com*

For more information about these Texas Superstars, visit [Tidal Wave™ Cherry Petunia](#) and [Tidal Wave™ Silver Petunia](#).

For more information about Texas Superstar® plants, visit <http://texassuperstar.com/>.

Even as the weather cools, you can still brighten up your garden. You just have to choose the right plants. Here are some more Texas Superstar® plants to consider.

- [Blue Mist Flower \(\*Conoclinium coelestinum\*\)](#) – This lovely native plant is a butterfly pleaser that grows in full or part sun. It is a deciduous perennial that blooms in summer and fall, grows to a height of 3 feet and a width of 2 feet.
- [Cool Season Euphorbias \(\*Euphorbia martini\*, \*E. characias\* subsp. \*Wulfenii\*, \*E. amygdaloides\*\)](#) – This Texas Superstar® is a winter annual that is both cold and drought tolerant. It grows in full to part sun to a height of 1 to 2 feet. With seven different varieties to choose from, you can select the foliage, colors, and accents that complement your garden. They grow in tight mounds and are very pest and disease resistant.
- [Ornamental Cabbage or Kale \(\*Brassica oleracea\*\)](#) – This low-growing Earth-Kind® plant grows in rosettes of colors varying from white to green to vivid purple adding pops of visual interest and color to the front of your garden. In the spring pale yellow flowers will grow on bolted stalks above the plant.
- If you are planting trees this fall, check out the [Texas Tree Planting Guide](#) find the best trees to plant for our area..



*Blue Mist Flower with Buckeye Butterfly*

You are invited to visit the Fort Bend County Master Gardeners' Demonstration Gardens at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office located at 1402 Band Road in Rosenberg to be inspired by what is blooming there. Take a family-friendly, self-guided tour through the gardens during daylight hours, open seven days a week. Be sure to take a copy of the garden maps and garden information located throughout the gardens.



*Ornamental cabbage or kale*