

NORTHWEST

Your CHECKLIST



PLANT

As early as possible, buy nursery transplants of fall and winter vegetables.

Purchase a handful of autumn crocus corms (*Colchicum autumnale*), and set them upright in a bowl containing an inch or two of pebbles. Add enough water to reach the base of the bulbs. They'll bloom on a windowsill by month's end.



MAINTAIN

Snip rampant tomato vines or support them with twine; otherwise, the weight of ripening fruit may break branches or lower developing fruit to the ground.

Irrigate in early morning to minimize how much water is lost to evaporation and conditions favored by plant diseases.

In cold-winter zones of Alaska, feed grass with 5 pounds of 8-32-16 fertilizer per 1,000 square feet of lawn late this month. It will strengthen the turf for the winter season.

Use bypass pruners (the kind with two blades) for making clean, close cuts on live plants. Anvil pruners (with one blade cutting against a flat surface) are meant for dead wood and limbs that need to fit in the yard waste container.



HARVEST

Gather ripe cucumbers when they're about 8 inches



"Indulge all the senses with aromatic herbs and flowers in high-traffic areas."

MIKE IRVINE, GARDEN EDITOR

long—or up to 20 inches for Armenian and Japanese types. Canning? Look for 2 to 3 inches for sweet pickles and 5 to 6 inches for dills. Lemon cukes are ready when they reach 3 inches in length.

Pick early apples and use them quickly since they tend to have a short shelf life. If you have more than you can handle, make sauce or give the fruit to a local food bank.



PROTECT

The small green worms that eat the leaves of broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, kale, kohlrabi, and mustard come from cabbage white butterflies. For organic protection, spray foliage with *Bacillus thuringiensis*.

If you have dead, damp wood in the garden, watch for carpenter ants. To help differentiate from similar pests, remember that their waists and necks are slim; termites' are thicker. The ants follow well-defined, 3/4-inch-wide trails between colonies; if one leads to your house, you probably have an infestation. Call an exterminator.



IDEA WE LOVE

Rite of passage

Our favorite landscape walkways often feel both wild and contained—they let you wander unobstructed while enjoying the plants' unruly habits. Step one to creating such a look? "Make your paths twice as wide as you think you'll need," says Seattle-based landscape designer Stacie Crooks. "Then let the plants grow over and soften them." In this courtyard on Washington's Whidbey Island, Crooks created a curving, 4-foot-wide path that ebbs and flows with lush, textural foliage—including deep green-leafed *Bergenia* 'Bressingham Ruby', chartreuse *Calluna vulgaris* 'Firefly', and silver *Hebe* 'Red Edge', all of which intensify or change hues as the calendar turns to fall. Finish the look with no-fuss summer bloomers—like pink *Abelia* 'Edward Goucher' and purple mophead hydrangeas—for a stroll-worthy garden no matter what the season. *Crooks Garden Design*; crooksgardendesign.com. 🌿



Learn what to plant when with our year-round checklists: sunset.com/checklists.