MONTHLY GARDEN CALENDAR

OCTOBER  (Transition weather-between warm and cool)

Officially Dry Season

- **Maintenance/Prune**: Apply 2-3" mulch. It's best not to trim trees—encourages new growth that may be damaged by cold weather. Trim storm-damaged palm limbs/fronds. If you plant now, you can harvest many vegetables by Thanksgiving.

- **Plant**: Tomatoes, com, squash, broccoli, collards, cauliflower, spinach, beans radish, Brussels sprout, herbs, carrots, beets, pansies, snapdragons, begonias, geraniums, impatiens, coleus, calendula, gerber daisies, galardia, and verbena. Make sure that the bedding plants are placed in well-drained locations; many are susceptible to roof rot if we have heavy rains that keep the soil wet for long periods.

- **Vines/Ground Cover/Ornamental Grasses**: Add new plants. Trim vines

- **Bulbs/Rhizomes/Tubers**: Try daffodils

- **Flowering**: Poinsettias need NO night-time light—cover to blossom

- **Watch for**: chinch bugs, mole crickets, aphids, mites, caterpillars, grasshoppers, slugs, snails, whitefly, garden flea hoppers, katydids. Check plants weekly, cut off branches containing insects or diseases or use insecticidal soaps and horticultural oil.

- **Lawn**: Too late for seed; use sod. Use nitrogen only to Bermuda grass. Use 3-4" deep mulch to help reduce weeds and to conserve moisture. If turf grass is over-run with weeds, re-sod now and fertilize so grass has time to stabilize before the cold weather arrives.

- **Shrubs**: Time to add new plants. Feed shrubs with a good quality complete fertilizer. If you wait too long plants will not get the full benefit because their winter slow down starts in November.

- **Water**: When wilting shows or top 1” of soil dry

- **Fertilize**: Complete Fall feeding. Use good quality fertilizers and fertilize all fruit trees to prepare them for winter.

- **Trees/Citrus**: Plant citrus which you like best. Not time to plant palms

- **Tropical/Temperate Fruits**: Plant Barbados cherry, carambola, guava, passion fruit, sugar apple, velvet apple, atemoya, avocado, banana, carambola, surinam cherry, sapodilla persimmon.