

## Landscaping with Onions

Many gardeners are growing onions for BEAUTY and not for FOOD.

Ornamental onions (alliums) are stunning, and gardeners are beginning to take notice.

These alliums have become very popular flowers in pollinator gardens. Their nectar-filled blooms are enticing magnets for bees and butterflies.

The plants are easy to grow and require very little maintenance. Alliums tolerate drought and suffer from no major diseases. Deer, rabbits and mice hate eating onions.

Fall is the season to plant allium bulbs. Give alliums a sunny spot with good drainage. It's a good idea to add some peat moss or other organic matter to the soil before planting.

There are many different alliums. Pay attention to flower shape, color, bloom time and hardiness.

The most popular varieties are favored for their sensational ball-shaped blooms. Supported on skinny stalks, the blooms seem to float above the other perennials in the bed.

Giant alliums get a lot of attention. The colossal 'Globemaster' will grow over 3 feet tall, topped with purple "volleyballs." 'Mount Everest' and 'White Giant' have white blooms that blend into mixed flower beds beautifully.

'Purple Sensation' is popular for its earliness and reliability. *Allium cristophii* (Star of Persia) is beloved for its lacy



Giant purple and white alliums (shown at top) are stunning in landscapes. The Star of Persia (bottom left) and other alliums are pollinator magnets. The award-winning 'Millenium' (bottom right) produces an abundance of blooms.

pink blossoms (shown). *Allium schubertii* has a flower that looks like a burst of pink fireworks. Wow, that's fun!

'Millenium' (shown) was voted Perennial Plant of the Year in 2018. It is prized for its compact habit and its profusion of flowers. 'Millenium' is sold in springtime as a plant. Look for it at your garden center next year.

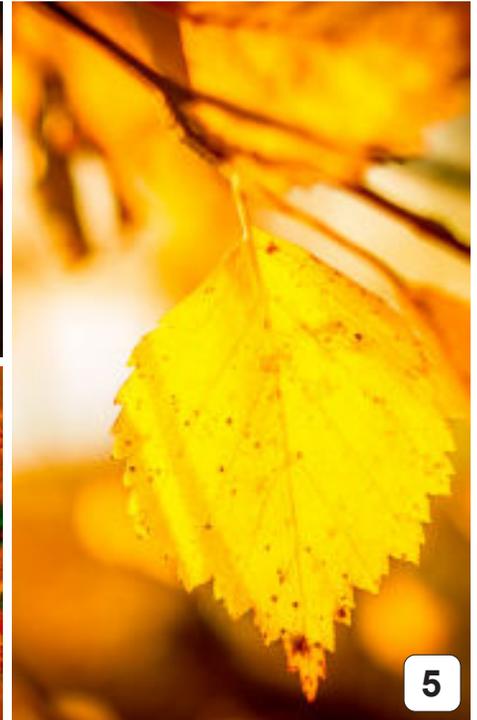
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# Fall Colors of North Dakota

The fall colors of North Dakota are peaking this month. Trees are absolutely glowing this year! Here is a sampling of fall colors from some of our native trees. Enjoy!

1. American Elm (*Ulmus americana*)
2. Serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*)
3. Sumac (*Rhus glabra*)
4. Hawthorn (*Crataegus* spp.)
5. Paper Birch (*Betula papyrifera*)
6. Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*)
7. Nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*)
8. Ironwood (*Ostrya virginiana*)
9. Eastern Wahoo (*Euonymus atropurpureus*)
10. Quaking Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*).



# Plant Health Care

## Landscapes



### Critterproof Daffodils

Deer and other critters will eat tulips and crocuses. Grow daffodils instead. Daffodils are toxic to wildlife. The scientific name of daffodils, *Narcissus*, comes from the Greek word “narcos” meaning to numb (just like narcotics). Critters will “Just Say No” to narcotics, including daffodils.



### Trim Your Lawn

A tall turf attracts voles (*damage is shown*) and becomes more susceptible to mold over winter. Cut your lawn at a normal height or slightly lower (1.5–2.0 inches) the last time you mow.



### Irrigate Evergreens

Irrigate this month to fill their needles with water. The tips of needles may dry (*as shown above*) due to winds and glaring sunlight over winter. Young and wind-exposed trees are most sensitive.



### Kill Invasive Brush, Vines

Fall is a great time to kill invasive brush and woody vines. Cut the brush down to the ground. Soak the fresh wound with triclopyr and/or glyphosate. The chemicals will move into the roots and kill (or at least stagger) the weed. Spray sprouts that emerge later, if needed.



### Mow and Shred Leaves

Shred leaves in your lawn with your mower. The lawn will not suffocate from the mulched leaves as long as you can see the grass blades after mowing. Thick layers of leaves must be raked or the lawn will get smothered and rot.



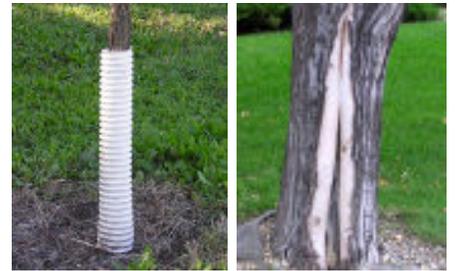
### Fall Needle Drop

An evergreen needle is not green forever. Older needles (located near the trunk) are supposed to drop. If buds and young needles (located near branch tips) are healthy, the tree is full of life.



### Plant Tulips Indoors

Set bulbs close; not touching; flat side against rim. Cover with soil so bulb tips are at surface. Water. Place in unheated garage (32–50°F) for 12–14 weeks. After bulbs sprout, set in 60°F spot with bright, indirect light. Move to a sunny spot when sprouts are 2 inches.



### Protect Young Trees

Place white tree guards (*left photo*) around young trees for at least two winters to prevent cracking (*right photo*) and protect against wildlife. Linden, mountainash, maple and fruit trees are very sensitive; protect for up to five winters.

# Plant Health Care

## Fruits and Vegetables



### Storing Potatoes

Remove loose dirt and avoid bruising. Do not wash. Cure for 2 weeks in a dark, well-ventilated area with temps in the 50s and high humidity. Store in mesh or perforated bags, crates or vented boxes. A very dark, cool (45°F), humid (90% RH) site is best.



### Storing Carrots

Harvest after light frosts and when soil is dry. Gently remove soil. Do not wash roots before storing; this leads to rotting. Trim tops to ¼ inch. Put in perforated plastic bags to increase humidity and allow for air circulation. A cool (32–38°F), humid (95% RH) site is best.



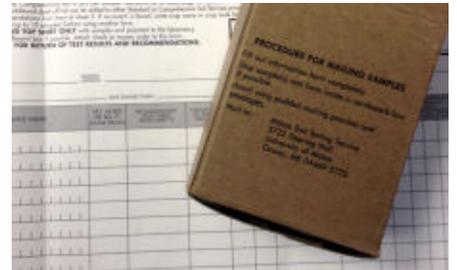
### Discard Diseased Plants

Remove or deeply bury diseased plants or fruits in the garden. This will reduce the likelihood of infection next year. Do not compost. Most compost piles do not reach the heat required (150–180°F) to kill fungi on diseased plants.



### Storing Apples

Store in a cool (near 32°F), humid (90% RH), dark place. A refrigerator is best, but a cool root cellar or garage is okay. If refrigerated, store in perforated plastic bags to increase humidity.



### Test Your Garden Soil

A soil test can lead to healthier plants and higher yields. You will learn nutrient levels, acidity, salinity and organic matter levels. For more info and forms, Google “NDSU Soil Testing Lab.”

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Written by Tom Kalb, who expresses gratitude to the Horticulture/Forestry Team for their contributions to this report.

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**NDSU**

**EXTENSION**

# Weather Almanac for September 25–October 1, 2020

Site	FIRST FROST <sup>1,2</sup>		TEMPERATURE <sup>2</sup>				RAINFALL <sup>2,4</sup>				GROWING DEGREE DAYS <sup>2,5</sup>			
	(28°F or colder)		Sep 25–Oct 1				Sep 25–Oct 1		2020		Sep 25–Oct 1		2020	
	2020	Norm	Avg	Norm	Max	Min	Total	Norm	Total	Norm	Total	Norm	Total	Norm
Bottineau	9/8	9/27	53	50	76	32	0.12	0.29	8.72	13.27	37	40	2082	2079
Bowman	9/8	9/30	52	51	76	25	0.00	0.35	8.38	11.35	40	46	2143	2167
Carrington	9/9	10/5	55	52	77	29	0.08	0.41	9.04	15.37	38	46	2234	2242
Crosby	9/8	9/29	51	49	73	27	0.18	0.28	7.78	11.58	30	39	2029	1933
Dickinson	9/8	10/3	54	51	74	32	0.00	0.35	8.00	12.94	40	49	2272	2150
Fargo	None	10/5	56	54	78	41	0.19	0.54	16.60	16.07	40	46	2529	2393
Grafton	10/2	10/4	55	51	80	29	0.09	0.51	16.66	15.74	40	44	2239	2096
Grand Forks	10/2	10/5	57	51	80	36	0.06	0.46	13.28	15.32	43	42	2310	2143
Hazen	9/8	9/27 <sup>6</sup>	55	54	76	34	0.00	0.34	11.54	13.08	42	57	2204	2366
Hillsboro	None	10/6	56	53	80	40	0.02	0.53	18.20	15.76	42	42	2341	2259
Jamestown	None	10/4	55	52	77	32	0.08	0.46	8.97	15.02	35	42	2223	2218
Langdon	9/8	9/28	52	49	75	29	0.09	0.42	10.98	15.25	28	33	1937	1787
Mandan	9/8	10/1	55	52	76	33	0.00	0.35	6.31	14.12	39	46	2351	2234
Minot	9/8	10/7	54	51	75	34	0.10	0.33	7.82	13.36	33	38	2121	2034
Mott	9/9	9/28	52	51	76	28	0.00	0.33	10.19	12.17	42	51	2201	2246
Rugby	9/8	10/4	53	50	75	32	0.05	0.40	7.97	14.97	34	42	2134	2075
Wahpeton	9/9	10/4 <sup>7</sup>	55	55	80	35	0.15	0.62	16.77	16.84	40	50	2442	2502
Watford City	9/8	9/25	53	51	73	30	0.01	0.24	6.81	11.10	37	48	2253	2159
Williston	9/8	9/29	53	54	74	30	0.00	0.27	4.45	11.07	40	56	2311	2437
Wishek	None	9/27	53	51	76	34	0.30	0.30	10.41	12.78	29	42	2227	2040

## DAYLENGTH (Oct 1, McClusky, center of ND)<sup>3</sup>

Sunrise: 7:41 AM Daylength: 11h 41m  
 Sunset: 7:22 PM Change since Sep 24: -24m

## LONG-TERM OUTLOOKS<sup>1</sup>

Oct 8–12: Temp.: Above Normal; Precip.: Below Normal  
 Oct 10–16: Temp.: Above Normal; Precip.: Below Normal

<sup>1,2,3</sup> Sources: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network, www.sunrisesunset.com, respectively.

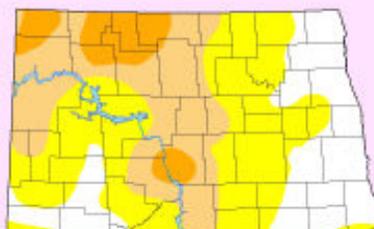
<sup>4</sup> Measurements begin April 1.

<sup>5</sup> GDDs for garden vegetables are not available. GDD data in this table are for corn, which responds to temperature as most vegetables grown in gardens. Data begin May 1 with base minimum and maximum temperatures of 50 and 86°F, respectively.

<sup>6,7</sup> Frost data for Beulah and Campbell, respectively.

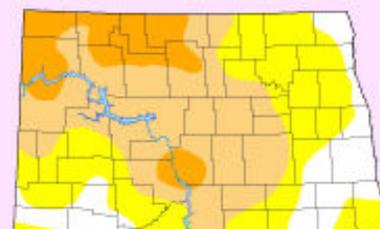
## Drought Watch

This was a bad week. Our statewide drought conditions worsened at a greater pace last week compared to previous weeks this summer. Warm temperatures, high winds, low humidity and clear days were responsible for the steep decline. More bad news: “Above normal” temperatures and “below normal” precipitation are expected over the next two weeks. Sources: State Climatologist Adnan Akyuz, Drought Monitor and NOAA.



September 22, 2020

- Abnormally dry: 75% of state.
- Moderate drought: 36% of state.
- Severe drought: 9% of state.



September 29, 2020

- Abnormally dry: 85% of state.
- Moderate drought: 52% of state.
- Severe drought: 14% of state.