

Goodbye Summer, Hello Fall

home &
garden

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One of the great joys of living in the Midwest is the change of seasons. The quickly approaching summer to fall transition is sure to bring on the fan favorites: crisp autumn air, pumpkin spiced lattes, and football parties on Saturday and Sunday...and Monday night, and Thursday night, and Friday night... most weeks. These great experiences aside, the emergence of fall also means our beautiful summer gardens will be coming to an end and the start of the holiday seasons are upon us.

I always look forward to changing out our dwindling pots into something festive for the fall. Fall planting is so much easier and less expensive when you plan ahead in the spring. I always use purple fountain grass as a center piece for my planters because it continues to grow and by fall it is an absolutely gorgeous staple. Some other plants you can carry on from spring are sweet potato vines, creeping jenny and coleus.

Pumpkins are one of my favorite things to put in the planters because they bring a great pop of color and prove resil-



Barrel filled with pumpkins, kale and mums.



Purple fountain grass with creeping jenny.



Red wagon planter gives a pop of color

ient to the sometimes volatile weather changes experienced in the fall, such as the onset of an early frost. Our resident garden expert, Mary Quinlan, has some great tips for fall plants. "While mums are a staple of fall, they tend to not last long in our planters," Mary says. "They are perfect for entertaining on a weekend but they typically do not last longer than 3 weeks." If you are looking for other colorful additions besides mums, Mary suggests using celosia, a gorgeous purple flower with longevity, or marigolds which bring us those wonderful orange and yellow fall colors. Spring pansies can also be planted in the fall as well. Some other hardy plants that make our fall planters pop are ornamental peppers and kale.

Don't be afraid to show your creativity this fall. Spice up your fall plants by using your children's wagon or an old barrel for an absolutely adorable planter box! Bring it all together by adding lanterns around your fall planters and a good stack of hay with some pumpkins to create the perfect fall entrance to your home.