

Sept. 27: This week in the garden



Seeds of hardy annual, perennial and biennial flowers can be **sown** outside throughout the month. Cooler weather makes this an excellent time to plant trees and shrubs.



Continue to **deadhead** and groom plants of spent foliage. Removing young flowers and fruits of plants like tomatoes will concentrate the plant's energy on ripening fruit that has a better chance of maturing before frost.



House plants should be thoroughly gone over for **pests** before they return to indoor quarters. Look for aphids, tiny green or black masses of bugs, concentrated on new growth and under tender leaves. Mealy bugs are cottonlike spots in the crotches of branches and in the new growth. They suck the sap from plants and can leave behind a sticky residue. Spider mites appear as tiny red dots on the underside of plants, and in severe infestations, webs can be seen on the plant. Scales look like tiny turtle shells and can be found on the midribs of leaves and on stems. Wash off plants well with a hose and spray liberally with insecticidal soap. Repeated applications will probably be necessary. If scale and mealy bugs persist, you can touch them with a cotton swab dipped in rubbing alcohol.