

It is hard to believe that fall begins next week! Time to get any dividing done that you have put off, and get all the plants that you bought this summer in the ground so they have a chance to get established before it freezes.

When Does Fall
Start In 2017?
Facts for
Beginning Of
Autumn

BY

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The time of year that John Keats called the "Season of mist and mellow fruitful," autumn is considered to be a season for harvest and is known for turning leaves, cooling temperatures, and also referred to as "fall" in the United States. In the northern hemisphere, the season of fall begins with the autumnal equinox that falls on Friday, Sept. 22, 2017, at 16:02 EDT. The equinox, when autumn is officially said to begin, is defined as when day and night have the same length, approximately 12 hours each. With the beginning of autumn, summer will be officially over, but don't fret because fall also means all exciting things like Halloween, Thanksgiving, pumpkin spice lattes, chunky sweaters, cooler temperatures, and vibrant leaves. The major signs of fall beginning include the turning of leaves on deciduous trees from their signature color green to varied hues of orange, red, purple, and yellow that makes the season a popular time photography, both for professionals and amateurs.

As you await the start of the season, here are 10 interesting facts about autumn:

- British people like to call the season "autumn," according to Grammarist. "Fall," which is mostly used in the United States, is an abbreviation of the term "fall of the leaf."
- Research has shown in the past years that babies, who are born in autumn are more likely to survive until the age of 100 years than babies born during the rest of the year. A study in the Journal of Aging Research also found that 30 percent of centenarians in the country born during 1880-1895 were born in the months of autumn.
- The full moon which occurs closest to the autumn equinox is also known as a "harvest moon."
- Usually, the Autumn equinox falls on either Sept. 22 or 23, but not quite always. Because the Gregorian calendar, which decides this, is not quite in perfect symmetry with the earth's orbit and therefore the Autumn Equinox sometimes falls on Sept. 24. This phenomenon took place in 1931 and is expected to happen next in 2303, according to Metoffice.gov.uk, United Kingdom's national weather service.
- Urban legend has it that you can balance an egg on its top or bottom during the equinox, according to Snopes. Eggs being one of the most ubiquitous symbols of

fertility and birth have been always associated with the start of spring, and thus also with the equinox.

- In Greek mythology, autumn's beginning was associated with the time when Persephone was abducted by Hades to become the Queen of the Underworld. In response to the abduction Persephone's mother, Demeter (the goddess of the harvest), left all the crops on earth to die until her daughter was returned, thus marking Spring.
- NASA calls autumn "aurora season" because it experiences more geomagnetic storms, which in turn permit people to spot the Northern Lights during that time.
- Fall in Australia lasts from March to May unlike in the United States where it is in September.
- Almost 30 percent of Americans said that their favorite season is fall, according to a YouGov survey in 2013.
- New England earns about \$3 billion from tourists traveling to see the colorful leaves, the Associated Press reported. While New Hampshire is said to see about 8 million visitors a year alone.

However, everyone does not see the season as joyous or fit for celebrations. As Ernest Hemingway wrote in A Moveable Feast, "You expected to be sad in the fall. Part of you died each year when the leaves fell from the trees and their branches were bare against the wind and the cold, wintery light."

Don't forget our meeting on Saturday, September 23rd, beginning at 1 PM in the Conference Center at Toledo Botanical Garden. SANDY HOLMES, American Hemerocallis Society, REGION 2 PRESIDENT, and co-owner of- Riverbend Daylily Garden in Xenia, OH, is our speaker. This was the first stop on our bus trip this summer so some of you have seen the hybridizing efforts of Sandy and her husband Mike firsthand. They grow and hybridize tetraploid daylilies, striving to introduce daylilies with excellent plant habit and distinctive looks. Sandy's interests lie in large unusual form daylilies. She'll also tell us what is going on in the AHS and our region.

And don't forget to bring your tissue culture plant H. "Pure Heart" and your journal to our meeting if you did not bring your plant back to the auction last month. Be sure to put your name on your pot. Remember, if you will not be at our September 23rd meeting, you will need to bring your H. "Pure Heart" back to our October 14th meeting to be eligible to participate in the tissue culture program next year. If you are unable to come yourself, have a friend bring your hosta and journal back for you. Any questions about the tissue culture program, contact Phil Parsons at 419-256-7246.

"Welcome" to Diane Vogt from Maumee, a friend of Helen Hundsrucker, who joined our society after spending the morning helping at the Daylily Work Day. What a gorgeous Saturday morning for our Daylily Work Day! Thank you to Libby and Jim Boldt, Eileen Hoffman, Dianna Vasquez, Diane Vogt, Helen Hundsrucker, Karen Centers, Win Sturgeon, Linda and Rich Nagy, Jim Connell, Sheri Reuther, Charlene and Frank Patz,

Linda Scheuerman, Becky Bothe, Dawn Dennis, Lance Wehrle, who joined Jonathan Milbrodt, a Black Swamper and TBG's Plant Records Curator, in cleaning up the Daylily display gardens by clipping foliage, weeding, digging up and dividing 10 daylily clumps. TBG's daylily collection is exceptional since it's been an American Hemerocallis Society National Display Garden since 2001 and their historical garden has been one since 2007. For the past 19 years, our club has supported and promoted the acquisition of award-winning plants for The Daylily Walk.

After lunch our public auction of daylilies grown by our members from our daylily host program the past two years were the featured items for sale. Many thanks to Kevin and Judy Kwiatkowski, Marian and Phil Parsons, Ann and Don Bixler, Pam Murphy, Sharon Supinski, and Judy Hersch, for organizing and running the daylily auction again this year! What a fabulous job!

"THANK YOU" to Charlie Harper, Lisa Kiene, Sharon Supinski and Joyce Lane for your donations of so many additional beautiful daylilies for our auction. We appreciate your support of this event, and "THANK YOU" to all of our buyers who made the auction a success!

Prior to the auction, a daylily dividing demonstration was conducted by Charlene Patz, Linda Scheuerman, and Rich Nagy. Thanks to Phil and Marian Parsons for donating a huge clump of H. Gold Medallion, and to Helen Hundsrucker for donating two additional clumps of daylilies for dividing for our auction guests to take home.

Following the auction, daylilies were distributed to our members to continue the Daylily Host Program for another two years.

Did you see the August 23rd article in *The Blade* on Bill Albert touting his "*Caribbean escape*"? Bill has a tropical oasis at his Waterville home – within walking distance of Win Sturgeon's garden.

Any volunteers to put together our members garden tour or a bus trip in 2018?

Next month at our October 14^h meeting, our speaker will be MICHAEL GREANYA-AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY's GARDEN PERFORMANCE CHAIR. His program is titled "Growing Alpine Plants in a Rock Garden". It is sometimes a challenging type of specialized gardening, but very rewarding. There are some applications for growing alpine plants that relate to growing mini hosta, which should be of interest to all. The meeting will begin at 1 PM in the Conference Center at Toledo Botanical Garden.

Then on November 11th we will have our Year-End Potluck, beginning at NOON at the Conference Center of Toledo Botanical Garden. The society will furnish the meat, drinks, and table service, and our members will bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Will just be lunch and a time to reflect on the past year with your gardening friends! No meeting or program.

Anybody interested in putting together a committee to plan our potluck this year????

Be sure to include a visit to see “*A Garden of Wonders: Stone Sculptures of Zimbabwe*” which is at Toledo Botanical Garden through October 29th. The show is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

The larger garden sculptures weigh anywhere from 400 to more than 1,000 pounds and cost between \$800 and \$3,000. At a Marketplace area set up as part of the exhibition, visitors can also see and buy smaller tabletop sculptures, hand-woven bowls, and hand-carved jewelry made from semiprecious, smaller stones. The show was last installed in the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden from April through July and has been shown in almost two dozen locations, including England, Bahrain, Canada, Michigan, Florida, and North Carolina. In Toledo, the exquisite pieces are secured to wood stumps scattered among plants and flowers throughout the 66-acre campus. Admission is free; Toledo GROWS will get 10 percent of the proceeds from any sales during the show. For more information, go to zimsculpt.com or toledogarden.org/zimsculpt-2017.

We received a “Thank You” letter from Susan Lang, Director of the Pemberville Public Library, for our donation of the recent daylily book written by Oliver Billingslea from the American Hemerocallis Society.

Be sure to check out our FACEBOOK page at <https://www.facebook.com/blackswamphostaanddaylilysociety>.

