

# Muskegon County Garden Club

Dear Gardeners,

*This month we'll get a pizza treat from the folks at the Depot/Visitor's Bureau downtown, so no need to BYO.*



**Remember to bring a smallish pumpkin for our Fall make & take event**

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## Put Fall Leaves to Work

The longer I garden, the greater my appreciation for the value of organic matter. And one of the very best sources of organic matter is autumn leaves.

Leaves are packed with trace minerals that trees draw up from deep in the soil. When added to your garden, leaves feed earthworms and beneficial microbes. They lighten heavy soils and help sandy soils retain moisture. They make an attractive mulch in the flower garden. They're a fabulous source of carbon to balance the nitrogen in your compost pile. And they insulate tender plants from cold.

My favorite way to put them to work - shred up as many as you can. If you don't have a leaf shredder, pile the leaves up on the lawn and drive over them a few times with the lawn mower. Shredding one leaf into five or ten smaller pieces does several good things. It increases the surface area giving microbes many more places to work. It prevents leaves from packing together into layers that won't let water or air penetrate. And it reduces the volume dramatically.

If you can compost them, they become something called leaf mold - a fabulous mulch which looks good while it does wonders for the soil. Otherwise, put some aside for a month or so to be used for mulching tender perennials and roses. The rest can be used in permanent perennial beds. Here their soil building energy goes right to the growing zone.

*Shared by Kathy Laliberte*

Autumn shows us how  
beautiful it is to let  
things go.



## Upcoming Events

**October 11 (9am – 2:15pm)**

District 4 Fall Conference in  
Saugatuck/Fennville

**October 14**

Memorial for Mary Lou  
Gielow

**October 17 – 11:30**

**Monthly meeting. Pizza  
lunch @ First Lutheran  
Church**

**October 17**

Sweetest Day

**October 31**

Halloween

**November 1**

All Saints' Day

**November 2**

All Souls' Day

**November 5**

Daylight Savings Time Ends



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## Continuing Education, Lite

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### **TGIF MORNING MEMBER MEETINGS**

**Moving to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> MONDAYS**

**Easy-peasy Zoom Meetings**

**ON VACATION- back November 13th**

[www.migardenclubs.org](http://www.migardenclubs.org)

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## October in the Garden

- Considering the early cold, we've got about five more minutes to divide and transplant spring blooming perennials.
- Bring houseplants indoors if you haven't already done so.
- Get out and enjoy the changing colors!
- Mark in your garden journal which colors you're seeing in your garden. Consider adding more shrubs to round out your fall color scheme.
- It's normal to see some browning, even in the middle of evergreens like arborvitae and other conifers.
- Rake the leaves on your lawn for your compost pile or use them as mulch for your beds.
- Add extra support for climbing vines that are exposed to strong October winds.
- First frosts are coming, so check the weather to learn when to cover your cold-sensitive plants.

Adapted from Great Garden Plants



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## More Upcoming Events

### **November 7 – 9am**

Last Weed-a-Rama at the Depot

### **November 7**

Election Day

### **November 14 – 11:30**

**Monthly Meeting. BYO lunch  
@ First Lutheran Church**

### **June 10 & 11, 2024**

Michigan Garden Clubs'  
Annual Meeting &  
Conference, Bay City

Stay safe, call  
each other  
often, & send  
notes.

