NATURE'S PERSPECTIVE LANDSCAPING

Nature's Notes

September 2026



Cooler Days Ahead: Why Fall Is Nature's Favorite Time to Plant

The kids are back in school, the evenings are cooling off, and Chicagoland's gardens are quietly entering one of the best stretches of the whole year. September doesn't get the attention that spring does, but for planting, it's hard to beat.

This month's Nature's Notes looks at why fall is prime planting season, plus a look back at one of our favorite award-winning projects: a midcentury ranch renovation built around accessibility and easy living.

Thinking about a fall project of your own?
Call us at 847-475-7917 or submit an inquiry through our online contact form to get started.





Why Fall is Prime Planting Season

Most homeowners think of spring as the season to plant. In reality, the weeks from September through October often give trees, shrubs, and perennials an even better start.

Warm Soil, Cool Air

The soil is still warm from summer, but the air has cooled down. That combination lets roots establish quickly without the stress of summer heat, so plants arrive at winter dormancy already settled in.

Less Watering, Less Worry

Cooler temperatures and typically more consistent rainfall mean new plantings need less supplemental watering than they would in the middle of July.



A Head Start on Spring

Trees, shrubs, and perennials planted now spend the winter building roots below ground. Come spring, they're ready to put energy into new growth right out of the gate, rather than starting from scratch.

Bulb Season is Here

September is also when we start planning spring bulb displays. Daffodils, tulips, and alliums planted this fall are what bring the first color of the season next April. If you'd like bulbs added to your property, now is the time to order.

You can view our Bulb Order Form here.

Ready to get a fall project on the schedule? Give us a call.

847-475-7917



Project Spotlight: An Award-Winning Ranch, Built for Easy Living

Our clients, a couple downsizing into a single-story midcentury ranch, came to us with a clear priority: accessibility, without sacrificing style. They needed a way into the home that would work for a walker, a cane, or a wheelchair, plus a rear garden with a raised, accessible vegetable planter and a dog run for their two canine companions.

The site brought its own challenge. The lot already exceeded the municipality's allowed impermeable surface, and rain events were pooling water in the back yard. We worked with the village to secure a variance, then designed a gravity-fed drainage system that carries water to the front yard, where it can safely soak into the lawn.



The finished entry ramp, built to ADA grade and finished in bluestone and limestone.

Getting the ramp to the proper grade meant extending it 18 feet from the front landing, which could easily have made it the dominant feature of the front yard. Instead, we finished it in sleek bluestone paving with limestone veneer and coping, plus low-voltage lighting tucked under the coping to guide the way at night. The result reads less like a ramp and more like an intentional part of the home's design.



Chartreuse-toned plantings, including Hakone grass and hostas, give the back garden color all season.

In the back, a new fence with four separate gates lets the homeowners move their dogs through the yard on their own terms. Hundreds of daffodils and white azaleas announce spring each year, and a London Plane Tree, planted in place of a diseased Tulip Tree, is becoming a living centerpiece of its own.

The project earned a Silver Excellence In Landscape Award from the Illinois Landscape Contractors Association, recognizing landscape work that's as functional as it is beautiful.



The finished cottage garden, layered for year-round interest.

Looking for Inspiration?

Check out our **Work Portfolio** and take a look at our transformations ***here***.



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