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## **Garden in Fall**

The weather has cooled and we are approaching the official day of fall. Don't give up on gardens just yet.

Before you decide to remove your tomato, squash and okra plants from the garden, make sure it is time to do so. The weather this year has been very hard on our home produce. The cool spell that we are currently enjoying is more conducive for growth of vegetables than the heat we experienced this summer.

If your plants look like they are giving up with old yellow leaves and spindly growth check again. Try removing spent leaves and allowing the remaining energy to go to fruit and new blooms. Check to see if your plants are producing blooms. If they do, and you still have bees, you could still get new fruit. Gardens can produce up through November if the weather allows.

I have removed several squash plants from my garden but some are still producing blooms. I inspect those that are left everyday to make sure that the insects are not taking over. If I see trouble I spray and I continue to look for new vegetables. I have been pleasantly surprised by the amount of produce I am getting from squash that I might have pulled out otherwise.

Of course, insect populations will spike during this great weather so continue to watch for squash bug, aphids, vine borer, cabbage worms, tomato hornworm and all the other pests that bother us. If you notice spiders in your plants while you are checking your vegetables for pests, leave them be and they will help to eliminate your problem. Spiders can be a great enemy of garden pests. Be careful not to spray them with any chemical control if you decide to use it.

In cooler temperatures we sometimes forget that our plants still need water. If rain is not in the forecast then don't forget that plants must have water in order to produce. Don't give up on what you have left. You may find you get more out of your vegetables in September and October than you have gotten all summer.

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