

WILD GAME, TAME GARDEN

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

WILD GAME

TIP

September is opening day of dove season in most states. A common misperception is doves are local birds and fall under state regulations, when in fact they are migratory and protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The mourning dove is the most hunted migratory game bird in North America, and dove hunting is a popular sport in many parts of this country. Federal and state regulations help ensure that these birds continue to thrive while providing hunting opportunities.

TO DO

I believe there's no better habitat for deer hunting than a second year cut-over. The underbrush provides a perfect variety of vegetation for deer to browse through without limiting your visibility. Pick an active trail in the cutover to set up a tripod before the season begins. I typically set up for a northwest wind in this region of the country.

TIDBIT

According to realtree.com

The first week of September is an incredible time to capitalize on summer patterns. Most deer are still running in bachelor groups and moving about the landscape as they have for the last few months. That big buck -- or group of bucks -- that you've been watching is still hitting the green food sources they have been all summer. Figure out what their preferred feeding destination is and set up in a staging area between their bedding and feeding. This time of year, bucks often bed close to where they feed. So don't set up too far from the food. It's best to start closer to the food source and gradually work back toward the bedding area with each hunt if deer aren't making it there in daylight.



TAME GARDEN

TIP

Have pets? Be sure to can slug and snail baits that contain poison. Last spring we learned this the hard way losing one dachshund and almost another.

TO DO

Get your fall bulbs in the ground when soil temps dip to 60 degrees! We call them “fall bulbs” because they bloom in the springtime if you plant them now. Think crocus, daffodils, tulips, and hyacinth, among others.)

TIDBIT

If deer are in the area, and your flower garden is full of impatiens, pansies, and daylilies, it’s pretty much a wildlife AYCE buffet. Try plants that smell bitter, or have fuzziness like lamb’s ear or geraniums.

In my opinion, the Double Delight rose is the greatest hybrid-tea ever. Not only does it repeat bloom with 30 petals, its fragrance can fill an entire room.

