October brings cooler weather to our homes and gardens. It always seems to be a surprise when you wake up with frost on the ground. What we lose with the garden, nature makes up with the beautiful colors.

In the Garden

The garden is slowly dying back. Soon the tomatoes and your favorite flowers will be gone. But there's always something that hangs on, like the black-eyed susans and zinnias. Keep bringing small bouquets inside to make every last flower count.

Simple Craft Idea

October is the perfect time to craft a wreath for your front door. Grab a grapevine wreath and cover it with autumn colors...faux leaves, acorns, mini-pinecones, grasses and hydrangea flowers.

Good Read

Autumn is a cozy season that is perfect for making crafts. *The Crafted Garden: Stylish Projects Inspired by Nature* by Louise Curley is a seasonal craft book that uses materials you can easily find during fall.

Fun Outdoor Activity

Head out to your local pumpkin patch or apple orchard to pick some seasonal fruit. Enjoying the fruits of the harvest is what Autumn is all about...apples, pears, pumpkins and grapes are ready to go.

Planning Ahead

October is a good month to start stocking up on baking ingredients for the holidays. You might even want to start baking some treats early. Just double wrap them and put in the freezer. When company comes it's easy to pull out a pumpkin cranberry loaf or a plate of cookies

cookies.

Inspirational Quote

October, tuck tiny candy bars in my pockets and carve my smile into a thousand pumpkins...Merry October! Rainbow Rowell

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Recipe to Make

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Now is the time to experiment with hot beverages. Give spiced apple cider a kick with a dash of Fireball Whiskey. For a non-alcoholic version dissolve Cinnamon Jolly Rancher candy in your apple cider. For fun use a cinnamon stick to stir your hot drink.

Vintage Decor

Although the Christmas season is still months away, October is a good time to keep an eye out for vintage ornaments. The price will continue to rise as we move closer to the holidays so if you collect ornaments be on the lookout.

To Stay Organized

Be sure to create a garden list of what you grew and harvested this year. You want to keep a record of your successes and failures so that next year you can look back and be reminded of what to watch out for. Keeping tract can be as easy and using a notebook or you can get fancy and purchase a garden journal.