Fall Edition 2026

FIELDSTONE
DESIGNS

FIELD NOTES

Fall Guide

LIVING THOUGHTFULLY INSIDE AND OUT.



HOME • GARDEN • GATHER • WANDER

Seasonal ideas for home, garden, and gathering.

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A THOUGHTFUL COLLECTION OF SEASONAL IDEAS FOR HOME, GARDEN, AND GATHERING.



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Settle in, turn the page, and enjoy the season. ♡



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A Welcome Note

Fall has always been my favorite season. There is something about those first crisp mornings that makes everything feel fresh again. The air changes, the leaves begin to turn, and suddenly the landscape is filled with shades of rust, gold, deep red—and, of course, orange. Orange is the color of the season, and I love it. Pumpkins on the steps, leaves scattered across the lawn, and the warm color woven throughout the landscape seem to bring a special kind of glow to everything.

I love the sights, sounds, and smells of fires again, whether it is a fire crackling inside on a cool evening or one glowing outdoors while we sit wrapped in blankets. The days grow shorter, the evenings become quieter, and home starts to feel especially good.

Outside, there is so much activity. Birds and little creatures seem to know winter is coming long before we do, bustling around the garden and gathering what they need. As I begin putting my own garden to bed, I intentionally leave some of it standing and let leaves settle into the beds. What may look a little untidy to us can provide food, shelter, and protection for the small creatures that share our gardens through the winter.

And then there is that wonderful feeling that the holidays are just around the corner. Porches are starting to be festively decorated, kitchens return to soups and slow-cooked dinners, blankets come back out of baskets, and we begin gathering indoors again.

This Fall Field Notes is a collection of many of the things I love most about the season—caring for our homes and gardens, getting outside to enjoy the changing leaves, creating cozy spaces, cooking something warm, and finding little reasons to slow down and enjoy home.

I hope you find an idea or two in these pages that makes your own fall feel just a little warmer, simpler, and more special.

Enjoy the season,

Deb

Fieldstone Designs



Crisp mornings, glowing fires, and a season full of color.

FIELD NOTES

Preparing the Home for Fall

WELCOME THE SEASON WITH A FEW THOUGHTFUL TASKS.

A little care now can help your home feel simpler, safer, and more comfortable as cooler weather settles in. Focus on a few practical outdoor and indoor tasks before winter arrives.

1. Order and stack firewood in a dry place.
2. Clean chimneys before fireplace season begins.
3. Have heating systems checked and serviced.
4. Clean vent hood screens.
5. Clean and put away porch furniture.
6. Sweep and clean off the patio and deck.
7. Clean planters once summer blooms are finished.
8. Refill a few containers with fall favorites like mums.
9. Clear gutters and downspouts.
10. Check smoke and carbon monoxide detector batteries.
11. Reverse ceiling fans for cooler weather.
12. Drain hoses and shut off outdoor faucets if needed.
13. Bring in or protect tender outdoor items before frost.
14. Make a note of small repairs to tackle before winter.

QUICK OUTDOOR TASKS



Sweep deck and patio



Clear leaves from gutters



Stack wood neatly



Refresh entry planters





FIELD NOTE

A few containers of mums by the front door can make even the simplest porch feel welcoming for fall.



DON'T FORGET

Leave enough time to book chimney cleanings and heating service before schedules fill up later in the season.



BEFORE YOU STORE

Wipe down outdoor furniture, empty planters, and tuck away cushions so they stay in good shape for next year.

Small tasks now make home feel easier all season long. ♡

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Bring Fall Indoors



SMALL CHANGES. BIG COZY IMPACT.

Simple swaps and thoughtful touches bring the warmth of the season inside. Create a home that feels cozy, welcoming, and beautifully you.



- [ ] **PUMPKINS ON COUNTERS OR SHELVES**
  Add mini pumpkins, gourds, and natural elements for an easy seasonal touch.



- [ ] **SIMPLE FALL DINING ROOM TABLE CENTERPIECE**
  Keep it low so conversation flows. Try pumpkins, greenery, and candles or a wooden dough bowl with hydrangeas and mums.



- [ ] **CANDLES IN FALL SCENTS**
  Think spiced cider, pumpkin, cedar, vanilla, clove, and amber. They instantly make a space feel warm and inviting.



- [ ] **RUSSET AND GREEN DISH TOWELS**
  Warm, earthy hues are a simple seasonal color update in the heart of the home.



- [ ] **SWITCH OUT WELCOME MATS AND KITCHEN RUNNERS**
  Layer in coir mats, plaid or striped runners, and warm earthy tones to ground your spaces for fall.



- [ ] **SWITCH OUT BLANKETS AND PILLOWS**
  Bring in cozy textures—knits, wool, and velvet. Try plaids, stripes, or nature-inspired patterns in fall hues.



- [ ] **CONSIDER HEAVIER CURTAINS IN BEDROOMS**
  Thicker drapes help keep the chill out and create a cozier, more restful space.



- [ ] **STORE EXTRA BLANKETS IN BASKETS**
  Keep them close at hand for cool nights and guest visits. Pretty storage makes them a part of your décor.



- [ ] **ADD A SMALL LAMP IN THE KITCHEN**
  Place one under or near cabinets for an extra layer of warmth and light—perfect for cozy evenings and early mornings.

A LITTLE NOTE

It's the small, seasonal touches that make home feel just right.
One change at a time.



SAVOR THE SEASON

Light a candle. Brew something warm.
Open a window. Close the day slowly.
These moments become the memories.

As the weather cools, it feels good to settle back into home-cooked meals in a cozy kitchen—simple suppers, warm drinks, and a little extra time gathered at home.



Bring warmth in. Cook slowly. Gather often. Savor the season. ♡

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Creating a Mudroom Drop Space

A LANDING SPOT FOR REAL LIFE.

Cooler weather means more coming and going—boots, coats, backpacks, and sports gear. A thoughtful mudroom or entry drop zone helps your family stay organized, ready for the day, and feeling a little less rushed.



EASY WAYS TO BUILD A BETTER DROP ZONE

- ☐ 1 Add sturdy wall hooks for coats, backpacks, and dog leashes.
- ☐ 2 Use lower hooks or labeled spaces so kids can reach their own things.
- ☐ 3 Place a bench for pulling on boots and setting down bags.
- ☐ 4 Add a boot tray or washable mat for wet shoes and cleats.
- ☐ 5 Use baskets or bins for hats, gloves, and scarves.
- ☐ 6 Create one bin or cubby for each child's school and sports gear.
- ☐ 7 Keep a lidded basket or tote for balls, shin guards, and extra equipment.
- ☐ 8 Add a small shelf or tray for keys, sunglasses, and mail.
- ☐ 9 Choose a durable runner or rug that can handle dirt and moisture.
- ☐ 10 Keep a hamper nearby for muddy clothes or practice uniforms.
- ☐ 11 Tuck in a lamp or small light for a softer, welcoming glow.
- ☐ 12 Leave one open basket for items that need to head back out the door.



FIELD NOTE

One basket per child makes busy afternoons feel a little easier—everything has a place.



DON'T FORGET

Boot trays, wipeable surfaces, and a washable rug help keep mud and mess in check.



WEEKEND IDEA

Add labels, hooks at kid height, and a seasonal basket for mittens or hand warmers.

SMART MUDROOM ESSENTIALS



Hooks for everyday use



A bench for comfort & convenience



A boot tray for wet shoes



Storage baskets for easy order

When the weather turns and life gets busy, a simple place for boots, coats, and gear can make home feel calmer the more you you walk through the door.

A little order at the door can make the whole house feel easier. ♡



Back to School, SET THEM UP TO SUCCEED

Create homework spaces that work for your family, your home and your kids.

A space to focus today, confidence for tomorrow.

WHY IT MATTERS

- Good routines reduce stress and build confidence.
- A consistent space helps kids stay focused.
- Feeling organized saves time and keeps evenings calm.

Let your kids have some input as to where they feel most comfortable working. It's not a one-size-fits-all approach—some of my kids liked homework at the table, others worked on their beds or at desks. So long as homework is done and in on time, I give my kids some input so the space caters to what they need to succeed.

WHERE THEY CAN WORK

KITCHEN TABLE



- Great for easy supervision and connection.
- Keep supplies in a caddy for quick grab.
- Set a timer to help with focused time and transitions.

DINING ROOM DESK OR SIDEBOARD



- Creates a dedicated homework zone.
- Add warm light and personal touches to make it inviting.
- Keep frequently used items within easy reach.

BEDROOM STUDY SPACE



- A quiet, personal space encourages independence.
- Keep it simple and clutter-free.
- Add a small basket for everyday items like chargers, sticky notes and pens.

ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES TO HAVE ON HAND

- Pencils, pens, highlighters & erasers
- Notebooks & loose-leaf paper
- Colored pencils & markers
- Glue sticks, scissors, tape
- Ruler & calculator
- Post-its & index cards
- Folders or trays for papers
- Planner or calendar
- Charging station for devices



TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Keep it consistent: same spot, same routine.
- Prep the space each week and clear it weekly.
- Use baskets or trays to separate subjects or kids.
- Encourage breaks—fresh air, movement and a snack help reset focus.
- Celebrate progress, not perfection!

MAKE IT THEIR OWN

Let kids add photos, art or a favorite quote to make their space feel special and inspiring.



HELPFUL REMINDERS

- Check supplies monthly and restock.
- Rotate out-of-season papers and art.
- Keep a "done" bin so finished work stays visible and makes it into backpacks before the morning chaos of getting out the door.

A NOTE FROM MY JOURNAL

Setting a routine early makes for fewer battles later and helps homework get done—on time! It also builds confidence, independence and peace of mind for the whole family. ♡



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A little planning today creates calm, confidence and big wins all year long. ♡

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A Fall Weekend at Home

A few simple rituals can make a fall weekend at home feel warm, restful, and memorable.

- ☐ 1 Bake something with apples
- ☐ 2 Take a foliage walk
- ☐ 3 Bring in a few branches for a vase
- ☐ 4 Make soup or a slow-cooked dinner
- ☐ 5 Tidy one outdoor space
- ☐ 6 Light a candle before dinner
- ☐ 7 Sit outdoors with a blanket
- ☐ 8 Write down one thing you want to enjoy before winter



FIELD NOTE

A slow weekend at home can be just as restorative as any getaway.

DON'T FORGET

Keep it simple. Choose one or two things from your list and enjoy them without rushing.

SAVOR THE SEASON

Candles, soup, cool air, and the people you love—the sweetest reasons to stay close to home.



The best weekends are often made of simple comforts, good food, and a little time to slow down.

Stay home. Slow down. Savor the season. ♡

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Shelf Styling Recipes

A few thoughtful combinations can make kitchen shelves feel warm, useful, and beautifully collected.

1. THE EVERYDAY SHELF



INGREDIENTS:

- Stack of everyday plates or bowls
- A wooden cutting board
- One small plant or vase
- A ceramic crock or pitcher
- One pretty bowl

METHOD:
Start with a practical base, then layer in one natural element and one warm wood tone for a shelf that feels simple and useful.

2. THE COFFEE CORNER SHELF



INGREDIENTS:

- Favorite mugs
- Coffee or tea canisters
- Small tray
- Spoon crock or sugar bowl
- Framed print or little lamp

METHOD:
Keep your daily essentials within reach and mix in one decorative piece so the shelf feels inviting, not cluttered.

3. THE COLLECTED KITCHEN SHELF



INGREDIENTS:

- A few cookbooks
- Mixing bowls
- A woven basket
- A vase or branch
- One vintage or handmade piece

METHOD:
Blend useful kitchen pieces with one collected object to give open shelving more personality and charm.

4. THE SEASONAL SHELF



INGREDIENTS:

- Small pumpkins or pears
- A candle
- Neutral dish towels
- A crock or pitcher
- Dried branches or greenery

METHOD:
Add just a few seasonal touches to make shelves feel fresh and timely without over-decorating.

SHELF STYLING FORMULA

- Start with one tall piece
- Add a useful everyday item
- Layer in texture: wood, ceramic, or woven pieces
- Include something green
- Finish with a personal charm



FIELD NOTE

The prettiest shelves are often the ones that hold the things you really use.



Style simply. Mix beauty with function. Leave room to breathe.

A little layering can make a kitchen feel warm, personal, and lived in. ♡

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Quick Weekend Getaways for Fall Foliage

A FEW FAVORITE WAYS TO SAVOR THE SEASON.

When the leaves begin to turn, even a quick weekend away can feel like a reset. A scenic drive, a cozy inn, a quiet hike, and a little time outdoors are often all it takes to savor the beauty of fall in New England.



1 STOWE, VERMONT
A charming village surrounded by mountain views, scenic drives, and cozy inns.



2 NORTH CONWAY, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Foliage, the White Mountains, shopping, and family-friendly fall fun.



3 WOODSTOCK, VERMONT
A classic town green, covered bridges, and lovely fall walks.



4 GO APPLE PICKING
Orchards, cider donuts, and a simple autumn outing.



5 TAKE A SCENIC DRIVE
Winding roads, overlooks, and roadside farm stands.



6 STAY AT A COZY CABIN
Quiet mornings, warm drinks, blankets, and fireside evenings.

MORE FALL IDEAS


New England fall hikes


Visit the Maine coast


Go canoeing


Plan a foliage road trip





FIELD NOTE

Sometimes the best weekend plans are the simplest—one good drive, one small town, and enough time to enjoy the colors.



DON'T FORGET

Pack layers, comfortable shoes, a thermos, and room in the car for pumpkins, apples, or a bundle of fresh flowers.



A favorite inn, a covered bridge, and a quiet walk can make the whole weekend feel memorable.

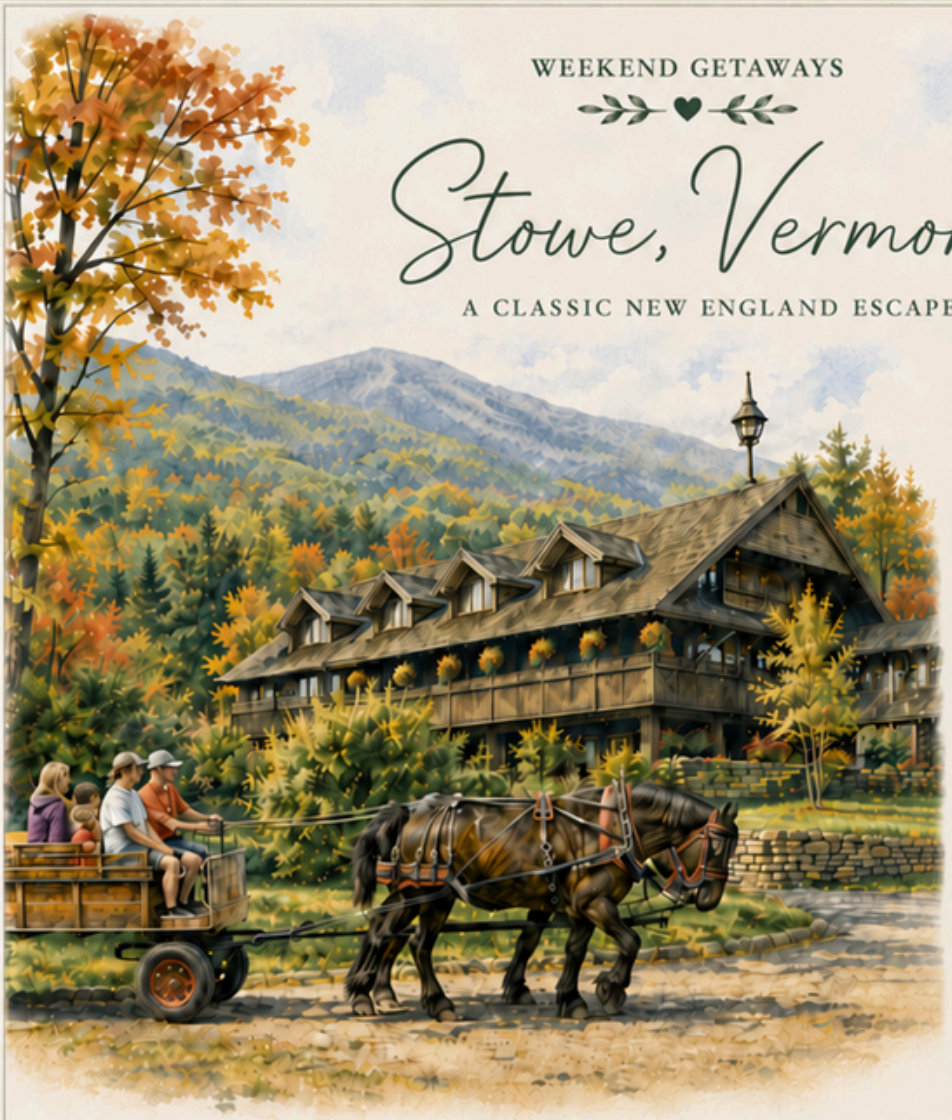
A crisp drive, a warm drink, and a beautiful view can be all it takes to make a fall weekend feel special.

Go gently. Wander often. Savor the season. ♡

WEEKEND GETAWAYS

Stowe, Vermont

A CLASSIC NEW ENGLAND ESCAPE



Crisp air, colorful mountains, and small-town charm. ♡

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What to do



STOP: BEAR POND BOOKS

Browse this cozy independent bookstore in the heart of Stowe Village. The perfect place to find a new read and a moment to slow down.



VISIT: BEN & JERRY'S

Take the short drive to the Waterbury Factory for a scoop (or two!) and a peek at how your favorite flavors are made.



DRIVE UP: TRAPP FAMILY LODGE

Take in the beautiful views along the Trapp Hill Road and enjoy a drink or a bite at the lodge. So peaceful in the fall.

DON'T MISS

- Walk the Stowe Recreation Path
- Explore Stowe Village shops
- Scenic drives on Route 108
- Local farm stands & cider donuts

A perfect mix of adventure, relaxation and local favorites. ♡

SCENIC DRIVES



Take a drive through Smugglers' Notch or along Route 108 for unforgettable fall views around every bend.

STOWE VILLAGE



Grab a coffee, stroll the sidewalks and enjoy the friendly New England village atmosphere.

MADE FOR FALL



From covered bridges to mountain streams, Stowe is magical when the leaves turn.

TIPS FOR YOUR TRIP

- Peak foliage: late September to mid-October
- Dress in layers — mornings are cool
- Reservations recommended
- Check local events & farmer's markets
- Bring your camera (and your appetite!)

♡

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Putting the Garden to Bed—Gently



A GENTLER WAY TO TUCK THE GARDEN IN FOR WINTER.

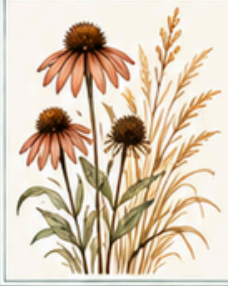
As the garden begins to slow down, a few thoughtful tasks can help it settle into winter with ease. Instead of cutting everything back and clearing every leaf away, let the garden keep some of the softness and shelter it has created for itself.

1. Remove diseased foliage and dispose of it rather than composting it.
2. Clear thick, wet leaves from lawns and from the crowns of plants.
3. Move a light layer of fallen leaves into garden beds as natural winter mulch.
4. Leave healthy seed heads standing for birds and winter interest.
5. Leave sturdy perennial stems and ornamental grasses in place.
6. Water newly planted trees, shrubs, and perennials until the ground freezes.
7. Cut back vegetable plants that are finished for the season.
8. Protect tender plants once the soil has cooled.
9. Add compost or a light mulch where beds need a little help.
10. Clean and store garden tools and empty hoses or watering cans.
11. Take photos and make notes about changes to consider in spring.
12. Let the garden rest with a little structure, shelter, and beauty intact.



FIELD NOTE

A light blanket of leaves beneath shrubs and perennials helps protect roots, enrich the soil, and provide winter cover for helpful insects and small garden visitors.



LET IT STAND

Coneflowers, black-eyed Susans, sedum, and ornamental grasses add beautiful winter structure while offering food and shelter for wildlife.



DON'T FORGET

Take time now to note what worked well, what struggled, and where you may want more color or structure next year.

QUICK FALL GARDEN TASKS



Rake lawns lightly



Tuck leaves into beds



Leave seed heads



Store tools neatly

A garden at rest does not need to look empty.
It can remain layered, sheltered and quietly full of life. ♡

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Warm Fires & Crisp Nights

A SIMPLE FIRE PIT. A WARM FIRE. GOOD COMPANY.

There's nothing like a crisp fall night, a soft blanket, and the glow of a fire under the stars.



HOW TO BUILD A FIRE PIT
with Cinder Blocks

YOU'LL NEED:

- 18–24 cinder blocks (for a 4 ft. diameter pit)
- Gravel or crushed stone
- Level surface
- Fireproof adhesive (optional)
- Shovel, rubber mallet, level



1. **CHOOSE YOUR SPOT**
   Pick a flat, level area at least 10 ft. away from structures, trees, or overhanging branches.



2. **PREPARE THE BASE**
   Mark a 4–5 ft. circle. Dig down about 3–4 inches and fill with gravel. Level it well for good drainage.



3. **LAY THE FIRST LAYER**
   Arrange cinder blocks in a circle, open side up. Leave a small gap between each block for airflow.



4. **STACK THE SECOND LAYER**
   Place the next row of blocks staggered over the seams below for stability.



5. **ADD A THIRD LAYER (OPTIONAL)**
   For extra height and a finished look. Glue with fireproof adhesive if desired.



6. **FILL & FINISH**
   Add a layer of gravel or sand inside the ring. You're ready to enjoy!

HOW TO BUILD THE PERFECT FIRE

- **START WITH KINDLING**
  Begin with small dry sticks, pine needles, or fire starters to get your fire going.



- **ADD SMALLER LOGS**
  Once the kindling is burning, add small logs to grow the flame.



- **BUILD A LOOSE TEEPEE OR LOG CABIN**
  Leave space between logs for airflow. Air is the secret to a strong fire.



- **USE DRY, SEASONED WOOD**
  Hardwoods like oak, maple, or birch burn hotter, cleaner, and longer.



- **DON'T SMOTHER THE FLAMES**
  Let the fire breathe! Avoid packing too much wood too tightly.



- **ENJOY THE GLOW**
  Once you have a good bed of coals, you're ready for s'mores, stories, and starry skies.



SAFETY FIRST

- Never leave a fire unattended.
- Keep a bucket of water or sand nearby.
- Follow local fire regulations.
- Allow fire to cool completely before leaving.



Kids are back to school and nights are quiet now, but a nice chance to connect with my love and share stories and memories and talk about our days.

Make space for the simple things. The fire. The people. The season. ♡

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Fall Planter Ideas

A few thoughtful containers can carry the porch beautifully into the season.



1 SOFT HARVEST PORCH POT

- Fountain grass
- Bronze mums
- White pumpkins
- Trailing ivy

Soft and natural with gentle movement and classic charm.



2 COTTAGE FALL MIX

- Asters
- Feather reed grass
- Pale mums
- Mini pumpkins
- Heuchera

Cottage-inspired and easygoing—perfect for porches or patios.



3 WARM WELCOME PLANTER

- Purple fountain grass
- Rust mums
- Ornamental kale
- Gourds

Rich tones and layered texture create a warm, inviting welcome.



4 SIMPLE FRONT STEP POT

- Switchgrass
- Golden mums
- Celosia or pansies
- Small pumpkins

Bright, cheerful, and great for front steps or smaller spaces.

FIELD NOTE



Tuck pumpkins around the base of pots for instant fall charm.

QUICK TIPS



Use one tall grass for height and movement.



Repeat one flower color for a cohesive look.



Water containers thoroughly and regularly until frost.

Layer texture, color, and a little harvest charm to welcome the season. ♡

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Plant Now, ENJOY LATER

A guide to planting spring bulbs in the fall for a beautiful show come springtime.

Zone 5 – Massachusetts

Fall is the secret to spring's best show. Planting bulbs now gives them time to settle in, establish roots, and reward you with vibrant blooms after a long winter.

WHY PLANT IN FALL?

- Bulbs need cold weather to root.
- Strong roots = strong blooms.
- Less work in spring means more time to enjoy!

GREAT BULBS FOR MASSACHUSETTS (ZONE 5)

TULIPS



Plant in clusters of odd numbers—3, 5, 7 or more—for the most impact.

Bloom Time: Mid to late spring

DAFFODILS



Reliable and deer resistant. Naturalize beautifully in lawns and woodland edges.

Bloom Time: Early to mid spring

BLUEBELLS



Lovely in shaded, woodland areas. They'll return year after year.

Bloom Time: Mid spring

HYACINTHS



Fragrant showstoppers perfect for garden beds and containers. Plant in clusters.

Bloom Time: Mid spring

GRAPE HYACINTHS



Tiny but mighty! Great for borders, rock gardens and tucking in between bigger bulbs.

Bloom Time: Early to mid spring

HOW TO PLANT BULBS

- **When to Plant:** Mid September to early November (before the ground freezes)
- **Where:** Full sun to part shade (most bulbs need at least 6 hours of sun)
- **Soil:** Well-draining is key! Amend heavy soil with compost if needed.
- **Depth:** Plant bulbs 2–3 times their height deep.
- **Spacing:** Follow package guidelines, but a good rule is about 4–6 inches apart.
- **Water:** Water well after planting, then let nature take over!



IDEAS FOR PLANTING



Drift Planting

Plant bulbs in natural looking groups and drifts rather than straight lines.

Containers

Layer bulbs for continuous blooms—tall ones in the back or center, shorter in front.

Under Trees

Bluebells and daffodils thrive in dappled shade and add color where other plants struggle.

FALL BULB CHECKLIST

- Buy quality bulbs
- Plant at the right depth
- Water well
- Add a layer of mulch after the ground freezes
- Mark areas so you don't forget where you planted



A NOTE FROM THE GARDEN

A highlight every spring is seeing my walkway bloom with red tulips and grape hyacinths every Mother's Day — bubbs I planted the year I was pregnant with my first babies. It feels like such a sweet reminder that some of the things we plant with hope become part of our family's story.

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Cozy Fall Suppers

SIMPLE, SEASONAL RECIPES FOR WARM NIGHTS AND HAPPY GATHERINGS.

BUTTERNUT SQUASH SOUP



INGREDIENTS:

- 1 large butternut squash, peeled and cubed
- 1 yellow onion, chopped
- 2 carrots, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 4 cups chicken or vegetable broth
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1/2 cup cream or coconut milk (optional)

METHOD:

1. Roast squash, onion, and carrots with olive oil at 400°F until tender.
2. Add roasted vegetables to a pot with garlic and broth.
3. Simmer 10 minutes, then blend until smooth.
4. Stir in cinnamon, nutmeg, salt, pepper, and cream if using.
5. Serve warm with bread or toasted pumpkin seeds.

Field Note

Velvety, warming, and perfect for a crisp autumn evening.

SERVING IDEAS

- Top with toasted pumpkin seeds, a drizzle of cream, or fresh herbs.
- Serve with crusty bread or a grilled cheese.
- Pair with a simple green salad.

APPLE CHICKEN SKILLET



INGREDIENTS:

- 4 boneless chicken thighs or breasts
- 2 apples, sliced
- 1 red onion, sliced
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 1 tablespoon maple syrup
- 1 teaspoon chopped rosemary or thyme
- Salt and pepper

METHOD:

1. Season chicken with salt, pepper, and herbs.
2. Sear chicken until golden, then add apples and onions.
3. Stir together olive oil, Dijon, and maple syrup and drizzle over everything.
4. Roast or simmer until chicken is cooked through and apples are tender.
5. Serve with rice, mashed potatoes, or crusty bread.

Field Note

A simple sweet-and-savory supper that feels just right for fall.

SERVING IDEAS

- Serve over rice, mashed potatoes, or buttered noodles.
- Add a side of roasted Brussels sprouts or green beans.
- A sprinkle of fresh herbs adds the perfect finish.

Good food, cozy moments, and a season well savored. ♡

FIELD NOTES

Autumn Apple Favorites

THREE COZY APPLE DESSERTS FOR CRISP FALL DAYS AND GATHERED EVENINGS.

CLASSIC APPLE PIE



INGREDIENTS:

- 6–7 apples, peeled, cored and sliced
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 tablespoons butter, cut into pieces
- 1 double pie crust (homemade or store-bought)

METHOD:

1. In a large bowl, toss sliced apples with sugars, flour, cinnamon, nutmeg, salt, lemon juice, and vanilla.
2. Fill bottom pie crust with apple mixture and dot with butter.
3. Top with second crust or lattice, seal edges, and brush with egg wash.
4. Bake at 400°F for 45–55 minutes, until golden and bubbling.

Best Apples for Baking

- **Granny Smith** – tart and holds shape
- **Honeycrisp** – sweet-tart and crisp
- **Cortland** – tender and great for pies
- **Macintosh** – soft and best for sauce or blending

SERVING IDEAS

- Serve warm with vanilla ice cream.
- Pair with hot tea or coffee.
- Share after a foliage walk or family dinner.

MAPLE APPLE CRISP



INGREDIENTS:

- 6 apples, peeled, cored and sliced
- 1/4 cup maple syrup
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 cup old-fashioned oats
- 1/2 cup cold butter, cubed
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans (optional)

METHOD:

1. Toss sliced apples with maple syrup, brown sugar, cinnamon, and lemon juice. Place in a baking dish.
2. In a separate bowl, mix flour, oats, brown sugar, and cinnamon. Cut in butter until crumbly. Stir in pecans if using.
3. Sprinkle topping over apples and bake at 350°F for 40–45 minutes, until bubbly and golden.

APPLE CINNAMON MUFFINS



INGREDIENTS:

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 cups diced apples (about 2 medium apples)

METHOD:

1. In a bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, cinnamon, and salt.
2. In a separate bowl, cream butter and sugar, then add eggs, milk, and vanilla.
3. Gradually add dry ingredients to wet ingredients and mix until just combined.
4. Fold in diced apples, divide into a muffin tin, and bake at 350°F for 18–22 minutes, until golden and a toothpick comes out clean.

Bake something warm. Share it often. Savor the season. ♡

FIELD NOTES

Autumn Trivia

A LITTLE AUTUMN FUN FOR THE TABLE, THE PORCH, OR A COZY EVENING IN.



A Field Note

A little trivia around the table is a fun way to savor the season together.

1. What year was the first Thanksgiving?
2. What was candy corn originally called?
3. Is pumpkin a fruit or a vegetable?
4. How much did the largest pumpkin in the world weigh?
5. Who was the first group of people in history to use scarecrows?
6. What do you call a male turkey?
7. What is the official word for the sound of leaves and trees rustling in the wind?
8. What is the natural color of leaves?
9. What pigment is responsible for trees with red and purple leaves?
10. What is the name of the classic Halloween movie that features the Sanderson Sisters?
11. Which President first pardoned a turkey?
12. What country started the tradition of pumpkin carving?
13. The Irish originally did not carve pumpkins. What did they carve?
14. How many pies can a bushel of apples make?
15. What fall month will you see a full Corn Moon?
16. Which U.S. state has named apple cider their official state drink?
17. Pumpkin is not an ingredient in pumpkin spice lattes. True or false?
18. Where is the one place in the world that you cannot find pumpkins?
19. What bug flies south to Mexico for the winter during the fall months?
20. What kind of trees lose their leaves in autumn months?
21. Why do leaves change colors in the fall?
22. What was Johnny Appleseed's real name?

ANSWER KEY

1. 1621
2. Chicken Feed
3. Fruit
4. 2,749 pounds
5. The ancient Egyptians
6. A tom
7. Susurrus
8. Green
9. Anthocyanin
10. Hocus Pocus
11. George H. W. Bush
12. Ireland
13. Turnips
14. About 13 pies
15. September
16. New Hampshire
17. True – traditionally the flavor comes from spices, though many modern versions include pumpkin.
18. Antarctica
19. The monarch butterfly
20. Deciduous trees
21. Shorter days and cooler weather reduce chlorophyll, revealing other pigments.
22. John Chapman

Gather close. Guess away. Savor the season.♡

FIELDSTONE DESIGNS

FIELDSTONE
DESIGNS

FIELD NOTES

A Closing Note

Fall always seems to remind me to slow down and notice what is right in front of me. The color in the trees, animals bustling about before winter, the scent of leaves and woodsmoke, and the comfort of home all feel especially meaningful this time of year.

As I put my garden to bed each fall, I'm reminded that there is beauty not just in blooming, but in resting too. Leaving a few leaves behind, letting seed heads stand, and making space for the small creatures around us feels like a gentle way of honoring the season.

I hope this Fall Field Notes has given you ideas and encouragement for your home, your garden, and your family life in this beautiful season. More than anything, I hope it reminds you to enjoy it—decorate the porch, light the candle, make the soup, sit by the fire, and let autumn linger just a little longer.

Thank you for reading along.

Warmly,

Deb

Fieldstone Designs

