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August 2008 Garden Planner



Plant:

- ☞ **Now's a great time to think about new garden additions for fall planting.** Planting in fall allows plants to establish themselves before putting on next year's show. Root growth is greatest in fall, and cooling temperatures ease your plants' transition into the garden. Analyse your garden and determine what could be added (or moved) and what would best suit particular sites.

When preparing beds for fall planting, till in 4" of pine bark soil conditioner down to at least 6" to help improve clay soils. Lime, if needed, will boost yields in veggie beds. If you haven't had one in awhile, or never, have your soil tested. It's free, and kits are available at the nursery along with a free handout on *How to Read Your Soil Test Report*.

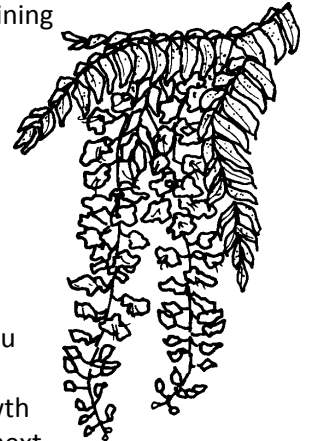
- ☞ **Start planting cool season veggies** such as **cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, brussel sprouts, and lettuce** in mid to late August for fall harvest.
- ☞ Add glory to your autumn garden with **late season bloomers** such as **Autumn Joy sedum, rudbeckia, boltonia, asters, sages, goldenrod, anemones, ornamental grasses,** and more. Spring and summer are definitely not the only season for great garden color and interest! **Come by the nursery for free handouts** on great trees and plants for the autumn garden.
- ☞ For an instant garden boost, **plant quick-color annuals** such as **petunias, pentas, coleus, and begonias.**

Prune:

- ☞ **Stop pinching mums.** They're getting ready to flower.



- ☞ **Lightly trim back summer blooming perennials that have bloomed** such as coreopsis, cone flowers, bee balm, phlox, liatris, baby's breath, and French hollyhocks to encourage fall bloom. **Trimming back will also extend bloom season for annuals** and is a good way to help them through the heat of August.
- ☞ **Pinch back herb flowers** to prevent annuals such as basil from going to seed and to direct the plant's energy towards producing foliage. **Pick herbs in the morning** for best flavor. If using later in the day, place cut stems in water and refrigerate until needed.
- ☞ **Deadhead roses** by cutting back to 1/4" above an outward facing leaf containing five or more leaflets - helps push another round of bloom.
- ☞ **Encourage new blooms on crepemyrtles** by cutting off faded blooms just below the old bloom or seed pod.
- ☞ **Cut back the long runners on wisteria** saving only those you wish to train along a support. This reduces vegetative growth but gives you more flowers next spring as well as helps to control what can be a rambunctious plant.



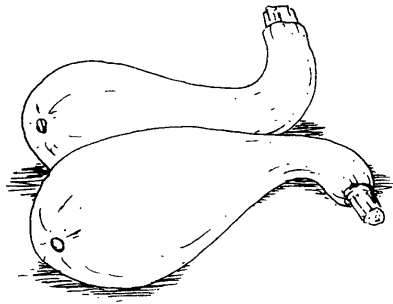
Fertilize:

- Avoid fertilizer burn,** especially in summer months, by watering thoroughly before applying fertilizers. Stop fertilizing trees and shrubs at this time to give them time to harden off before fall weather sets in.
- ☞ **Fertilize warm season grasses** such as bermuda, zoysia, and St. Augustine. Fescue, a cool season grass, should not be fertilized (though adding lime is fine if needed). Just let it to go dormant.
 - ☞ **A quick shot of water-soluble fertilizer** such as Miracle-Gro™ **will revitalize** recently trimmed **annuals and perennials** that have had nutrients washed out of soils with the summer rains.
 - ☞ **Mums are getting ready for their fall show.** Give them a boost to aid flowering by fertilizing with Nursery Special™ or Osmocote™.
 - ☞ Last chance to **fertilize summer veggies!**

- ☞ **Feed houseplants every two weeks**, especially if they are summering outdoors.
- ☞ **Perk up container plants** and hanging baskets with Osmocote™ or Miracle-Gro™.
- ☞ **Encourage roses to linger and re-bloom** with a last feeding this month.

Garden Maintenance:

- ☞ **Keep picking tomatoes, peppers, okra, squash, and other veggies** every few days in order to maximize your yields. Got too much produce for you & your family to consume? Give some away to your local food bank or soup kitchen.
- ☞ **If mulches are looking a little thin**, replenish them in order to protect plants from heat stress & help prevent weeds and soil-borne disease.



- ☞ **Heavy tomato plants pulling down your tomato cages?** Try weaving two stakes through the cages and driving them into the ground so as to anchor those enthusiastic tomatoes into place.
- ☞ **Keep mower blades at the highest setting** during hot summer months and make sure blades are sharp. Water early in the morning to prevent warm season diseases.
- ☞ **Water plants as needed making sure that anything that's been in the ground less than two years is getting regular water.** Generally, one inch of water per week is recommended for trees and shrubs if there has been no significant rainfall, and it can be beneficial to break that up into two separate waterings. **Perennial** and **annual beds** may require water more often if dry conditions persist. **Veggies** require regular water for best yields.

IPM (Integrated Pest Management):

Watch out when spraying chemicals in hot weather.

Check labels for temperature ranges. Generally, don't spray when temperatures rise above 85°F.

- ☞ **Spider mites** are common on conifers such as **arborvitae**, **dwarf Alberta spruce**, and **juniper** this time of year, not to mention on houseplants such as **palms** and **dracaenas**. Suspect plants that have leaves stippled yellow and foliage that has fine webs, or brown patches. Check plants, and, if needed, treat with horticultural oil, such as All-Season Spray Oil™, insecticidal soap, or MiteX organic spray. Mites like dry conditions and can be discouraged by gently

hosing down susceptible plants with water periodically.

- ☞ **If you have slug and snail problems** this season, apply non-toxic Sluggo™ bait in problem areas such as hosta beds.
- ☞ **White flies love yellow.** You can use this to your advantage by setting out yellow sticky traps for them. You can make the traps at home, too, by cutting up yellow milk or juice containers, coating them with vegetable oil, and hanging them near affected plants such as gardenia.
- ☞ **Stippled or faded leaf surfaces with undersides that look speckled with dirt indicate lacebugs.** Spray with horticultural oil being sure to coat undersides of leaves. Commonly seen on azaleas, rhododendrons, and pieris.
- ☞ If handpicking is unfeasible, **treat for insects, like beetles, actively feeding on plants** with Bon-Neem™ spray.
- ☞ **Pull down the silky bags of fall webworms** hanging from trees and dispose in a bucket of soapy water. Or spray with Thuricide™, a beneficial bacteria that attack the caterpillar family (not for use in butterfly gardens).
- ☞ **Powdery mildew** becomes prominent in late summer and fall. Try the new biofungicide Serenade Disease Control, a beneficial bacteria that controls or suppresses many fungal and bacterial diseases.
- ☞ Use Mosquito Dunks™ in ponds and water features to keep larvae from hatching. Safe around fish. **Help eliminate mosquitoes** by eliminating areas of standing water.



Coming Events:

- ☞ Get ready for our **Fall Plant Sale!** From **Sept. 5th through Sept. 13th**, get **25% OFF ALL OUTDOOR PLANTS** including trees, shrubs, vines, groundcovers, and perennials!
- ☞ **OUTDOOR FURNITURE CLEARANCE!** We are featuring **big markdowns on our premium Alfresco outdoor furniture** while supplies last! In-stock items only.

