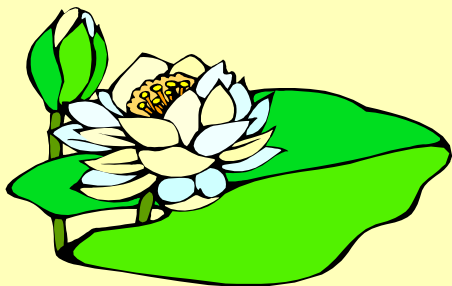




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July 2008 Garden Planner



Plant:

Help your newly planted plants get well-established by making sure their water needs are being met. Water deeply at least once a week if we haven't had a good rain (an inch or more). Also, mulch, mulch, mulch! A 2"-3" layer of mulch will protect developing roots, conserve moisture, and help prevent soil-borne diseases from spreading. *Keep mulch away from trunks and the crowns of plants by tapering it as it goes in towards the plant.* Try planting in the evening so as to minimize stress on new plants.

- ☞ **Need to provide a little zip to your garden? Add instant color** with our beautiful 6 1/2" annuals such as impatiens, zinnias, dahlias, pentas, geraniums, salvia, and more.
- ☞ **There's still time to plant veggies for fall harvest!** Plant warm season vegetables such as **tomatoes, peppers, squash, and cucumbers** for delicious yields late this summer.
- ☞ **Plant now for late summer shows in the garden.** Plants in the sage family such as **pineapple sage, Mexican bush sage, blue anise sage** will flower into late summer and fall. **Toad lilies** and **blue plumbago** add interest to lightly shaded areas in late summer as well as **dainty anemones** and **boltonia**. Shrubs such as **chaste tree, beautyberry, and Tardiva hydrangeas** will add substance to the show. **Grasses** come into their own in late summer adding their billowy and graceful forms to your borders. Come by the nursery for a list of *Plants for the Autumn Garden*.

Prune:

- ☞ **Stop pinching back mums** after July 15th. Fertilize

regularly to insure maximum blooms.

- ☞ **If your big leaf hydrangeas have gotten oversized**, you can prune them back after they've bloomed. Cut off old flower heads and trim back anything that's leggy or out of hand. Pruning isn't required for these plants but it can help control size and coax out more blooms next year.
- ☞ **Cut old blooms off crepemyrtles** to lengthen bloom season.
- ☞ **Deadhead roses** by cutting back to 1/4" above an outward facing leaf containing five or more leaflets.
- ☞ **Pinch faded flowers off annuals** to encourage more blooms.
- ☞ **Snip dead flowers off summer-flowering bulbs** but let the foliage wither naturally.
- ☞ **Cut back the long streamers on wisteria**, saving only those you wish to train along a support.
- ☞ **Pinch flowers of herbs** to prevent them from going to seed and to keep the plant's energy directed to producing foliage. Herbs also taste better when they haven't been allowed to form flowers.



Garden Maintenance:

Watering early in the morning is good for number of reasons (though the late risers reading this might not be persuaded). Less water is lost to evaporation. Also, because plants aren't exposed to hot sun yet, they won't get burned by any water splashes. Finally, plants have a chance to dry off before evening. Watering plants just before dark increases chance of disease occurrence, especially during hot, humid seasons.

- ☞ **Now's a good time to trans plant houseplants** that may have overgrown their pots. Also, if pots have a lot of white salt build-up on them. Scrub them down and rinse them.
- ☞ **When mowing lawns in summer, keep mower blades set high** to reduce heat stress.
- ☞ **Keep harvesting vegetables** regularly to keep up production.
- ☞ **Mound up a circular dam around tomatoes, peppers, and other water loving plants.** Water will be directed straight down to the roots saving time and water. **Avoid bitter cucumbers and keep up yields on**





blueberries by keeping the root zone cool and evenly moist (hint: Mulch!).

Fertilize:

- ☞ **Make sure you get enough tomatoes** for plenty of those luscious kitchen sink sandwiches by fertilizing tomatoes and other warm season veggies regularly to ensure good production. Osmocote is a good choice. Tomatoes also love a little extra boost from seaweed extract. Bush beans, however, need little fertilizing.
- ☞ **Fertilize roses monthly with Rose-tone or Bayer Rose & Flower Care.** Add in soluble kelp fertilizer and top dress with a little mushroom compost for a great boost that your roses will love.
- ☞ **Fertilize warm-season grasses every 4 to 6 weeks** with Espoma Lawn Food. Fescue should not be fertilized until September.
- ☞ **Feed container plants and flowering bedding plants and hanging baskets** with Osmocote or Miracle-Gro.

IPM (Integrated Pest Management) :

Bugs will remain numerous & hungry this month. A watchful eye can catch problems before they become difficult to manage. Watch out when spraying chemicals in hot weather. Check labels for temperature ranges and other spraying restrictions. Generally, do not spray when temps exceed 90°F.

- ☞ **Continue preventative spraying of roses** with Bon-Neem. It repels and kills insects. Serenade or Fung-onil will help control disease. Remove fallen leaves.
- ☞ **Faded or stippled discoloration on leaf surfaces and fine webbing on the underside of leaves indicates the presence of spider mites.** Treat them with Mite-X (organic), Bon-Neem, All-Season Spray Oil, or Concern Insect Killing Soap.
- ☞ **If you find tiny sliver-like bugs crawling around blossoms and flowers look poorly, you may have thrips.** Treat with Bon-Neem or insecticidal soap. Several applications will probably be required.



- ☞ **Watch for end rot on tomatoes** indicating a calcium deficiency or uneven watering. If discovered, treat with Bonide Rot-Stop, and make sure the soil stays evenly moist. Mulch helps.
- ☞ **Knock down feeding Japanese beetles** and other damaging insects with Sevin. Bayer Rose & Flower Care is an effective systemic control. Apply granular Milky Spore bacteria to your soil to control beetles while they are in their grub stage and interrupt the life cycle. That means less beetles the next year!
- ☞ **Control caterpillars such as tomato hornworm** with an application of Thuricide which is a beneficial bacteria that attack caterpillars. Not for use in butterfly gardens.
- ☞ **If your euonymus look poorly** and have white insects on leaf undersides and bump-like scales on stems, treat for **euonymus scale** with All-Season Spray Oil.
- ☞ **New foliage that has curled or wrinkled may be infested with aphids**, tiny green or red-brown insects congregating on tender new leaves. Treat with Concern Insect Killing Soap.
- ☞ **A single wilting stem on rhododendrons often indicates rhododendron borers.** Check base of the stem for a 1/4" hole and sawdust in the area. Push some wire into the hole to mash the borers & seal with plumbers putty or prune the stem. Borers prefer stressed plants so keep rhodies well watered. Avoid mechanical damage to plants (ie. from lawn mowers) which provides ports of entry. Borer-Miner spray can also be used.

Coming Events:

- ☞ Don't miss our **Founder's Day Sale** on **Saturday, July 19th!** *Everything throughout the Nursery, Green houses, Indoor Lifestyles, and Garden Center* including plants, gifts, pottery, and garden supplies. Enjoy free hot dogs & sno cones plus enter to win one of several \$40 Homewood Gift Cards!
- ☞ **BLOOMING BUCKS EXTENDED THROUGH AUGUST!** Still got some of your pink Blooming Bucks coupons leftover from Spring? Bring them by Homewood and use them as cash for up to 50% OFF anything in the store!

