

## August

### Annuals:

- If you used a slow release fertilizer when planting, you do not need to use anything this month. If you did not, fertilize with a low-nitrogen, quick release fertilizer. Avoid fertilizing when it is very hot.
- Keep an eye on water needs. With higher temps, you may need to give your plants more than 1" of water per week.
- Continue to deadhead. Also, pinch back leggy plants to encourage branching and more flowering.
- Continue to monitor for pests.

### Bulbs:

- Continue to water. This month may be hot and dry, and the plants may need more than 1" of water because of that.
- Keep monitoring for pest problems.
- Keep the garden weed free, this will make it easier next spring.

### Fruit:

- Continue to harvest ripe fruit. Blueberries, elderberries, early season apples and pears will be ripening this month.
- Continue to monitor water needs.
- Continue to monitor for pests. Pay attention to the labels on all insecticides when using on fruit.

### Herbs and Vegetables:

- Harvest potatoes as the tops die and tubers reach full size. Dig onions when the tops fall over and dry up. Pick peppers when the fruits are firm and fully colored. Pick tomatoes when they are fully colored. Pick squash when they are 6-10" long. Harvest cucumbers depending on what you are using them for. Continue to harvest herbs as desired.
- Continue to water. The weather could be hot and dry, so check a few times a week.
- Watch for aphids and leafhoppers. Use an insecticidal soap to treat these. There are many other pests in the garden, so keep a close eye on the vegetables and herbs.
- Check leaves and fruit of tomatoes for yellowing, brown spots, and end rot. You may need to apply fungicide. The blackened ends of the fruit (blossom end rot) can be treated by keeping the moisture level in the soil consistently moist.

### Lawns:

- The end of August is a great time to put seed down. You can overseed thin lawns now with temperatures cooling and warm soil making a perfect environment for the germination of seeds. It is also a good time to lay sod. Remember to keep freshly seeded and sodded areas moist.
- Continue to water the lawn as needed.
- No need to fertilize this month.

### Perennials, Ornamental Grasses, and ground covers:

- Continue planting.
- Dig and divide spring blooming perennials.
- During the heat of summer, keep an eye on drooping plants. New plants will need plenty of water. Established plants will need about 1" of water pre week, sometimes more if is very hot and dry. Try to water more thoroughly, but less frequently to help establish deep roots. Water your gardens early in the day.
- Do not fertilize.
- Deadhead plants to extend bloom times, especially daylily.

### Roses:

- Continue to deadhead and use roses as cut flowers.
- Continue to monitor and control pests and disease.
- No need to fertilize.
- Continue to monitor water needs. Even though it is hot and dry, roses still will only need 1" of water per week. Try to water more thoroughly and less frequently to help establish deep roots.

### Shrubs:

- Continue planting. Mulch the base of new plants to keep moisture in.
- Monitor for water needs. Water shrubs when you can tell they are stressed. Water the thoroughly, but less frequently.
- Do not fertilize.
- Continue to monitor and control insects.

**Trees:**

- Continue planting trees.
- August is usually the driest month, so be prepared to water all trees, especially newly planted ones. In drought conditions, new trees will need a deep watering about once or twice a week.
- Do not fertilize.
- Continue to watch for pests and treat accordingly.
- Avoid pruning if possible.