

Things you could or should be doing in your garden in...

...AUGUST

- ✦ Sharpen lawn mower blades to ensure that grass blades are cut and not torn, removing only 1/3 of the blade length at any one time.
- ✦ Apply a lawn insecticide (like imidacloprid) to control grubs, which turn into Japanese beetles the following year.
- ✦ Address bugs, disease and/or drought problems in the yard and garden before they get out of hand.
- ✦ Be diligent in watching your lawn and shrub beds for signs of drought stress; most rainfall comes in hit or miss thunderstorms this time of year.
- ✦ Ensure mulch layers are adequate to conserve moisture and keep root zones cool.
- ✦ Extend the beauty of leggy summer annuals by cutting back by half, then fertilizing to boost new growth.
- ✦ Prune and fertilize hybrid tea roses to prepare them for fall blooming.
- ✦ Watch for Magic, Surprise, and/or Spider Lily flower spikes to emerge from the ground; the lawnmower and weed-eater can significantly hamper flowering performance.
- ✦ Divide daylilies at this time for great results next year: Dig up, split apart the clumps, and re-plant or share with others.
- ✦ Container plantings must be monitored for moisture levels, and may need watering on a daily basis; a boost of fertilizer will keep plants healthy.
- ✦ Keep harvesting herbs like basil so they will continue producing until frost; remove any flowering spikes as soon as they appear to prevent bolting.
- ✦ Plant late season crops of annuals like marigolds, impatiens, cosmos, pentas and salvia for a fresh splash of color.
- ✦ Clip seed pods off crepe myrtles to keep branches from breaking in a storm and to encourage another round of flowering before frost.
- ✦ Begin planting fall veggies – collards, kale, broccoli, spinach, seed beets, carrots and radishes.