

# Out in the Garden



Rockport Garden Club, August 2019



## Horticultural Classroom: The Late Summer Garden

By late July, gardens are in transition as some early perennial bloomers are past their prime and look somewhat dull. But take heart — there are many colorful perennials that bloom late summer into fall, including: coneflower, phlox, asters, mums, sedum, anise hyssop, helenium, knautia, rudbeckia, catmint, and bee balm. Annuals also carry strong colors through the summer into fall; however, if they have become scraggly, prune off dead leaves and give them a good drink to perk them up.

Deadhead all spent flowers on annuals and perennials so that the plant will continue to produce new flowers. Annuals continue to need frequent feeding, but not most perennials, which are winding down. Roses should receive a final feeding the first of August.

Extremely high temperatures and drought take a toll on the garden's beauty. High humidity can foster mildew and plant diseases. Remove and destroy leaves with black spot or mildew, as the spores will overwinter and will return next season. Plants like phlox and bee balm can be thinned to increase air circulation to discourage mildew. Fungus sprays are effective when used regularly on roses, phlox, bee balm, and pulmonarias. Pick off insect pests like bee-



tles, spider mites, scale and whiteflies and drop them in soapy water. And don't forget to weed weekly; this is easiest when the soil is moist. (At least remove the seed heads of weeds.)

When temperatures are extreme, avoid shallow watering and instead water deeply once a week — early morning is the best time. Bear in mind, you may have to rotate which plants to water each day to provide a deep watering while adhering to the Town's current water restrictions.

Lastly, August is a good time to assess your garden's performance for any improvements you want to make for next year. August is also a great month to find sales at local nurseries. Remember that fall is an excellent time to plant perennials (September 1 – September 15) as the cooler temperatures and warm soil allow the roots to establish before the soil cools. Shrubs and trees can be planted Labor Day into late October. For more information, visit: <https://www.thespruce.com/late-summer-flower-garden-flower-care-1315875>



## Happenings

Workshop, "Create Your Own Autumn Wreath," Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10–Noon, Nunan Florist & Greenhouses, 269 Central Street in Georgetown. You will only pay for the materials you use, including a grapevine base, approximately \$35–\$40. To register email: [moorbymary@gmail.com](mailto:moorbymary@gmail.com).

Questions? Contact your Home Gardening Committee:

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