

Gardening Calendar

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Conditions during each season in your location will determine the actual timing of your garden work. If you have questions regarding the timing of garden activities in your area, please feel free to ask a Master Gardener at HelenaMasterGardeners@hotmail.com.

August

- ♣ Start pinching back new tomato, pepper and squash flowers to encourage existing flowers to develop fruit.
- ♣ Avoid planting perennial shrubs and trees during the heat of the summer unless you can provide good shading.
- ♣ Early in the month sow leafy greens in more shaded areas of the garden for fall harvest.
- ♣ Check for powdery mildew on phlox, delphinium, perennial aster, lilacs, Virginia creeper, honeysuckle crabapple, and bee balm – leaves present with grayish/whitish residue. Make sure there is adequate air flow around plants.**
- ♣ Fertilize annuals unless you've used a slow-release fertilizer mix early on.
- ♣ Shade any new transplants from direct sun.
- ♣ Continue deadheading (cutting back old spent flowers) to encourage new flower growth on annuals and perennials.
- ♣ Water regularly to provide even moisture for plants, and lay mulch around plants and in beds to conserve water.
- ♣ Harvest new potatoes and small zucchinis and cucumbers.
- ♣ Begin slowing down fertilizing perennials, particularly shrubs and fruit trees.
- ♣ Dig up and divide iris after they have bloomed.
- ♣ Prune out old lilac flowers.



September

- ♣ Harvest winter squash and pumpkins before first frost.
- ♣ Harvest garlic and onions.
- ♣ Continue deadheading and weeding.
- ♣ Stop fertilizing fruit trees, shrubs and perennials.
- ♣ Slow down watering schedules and decrease water quantities for trees and shrubs.
- ♣ Begin seeding and spot seeding lawns with grass seed.
- ♣ Fertilize lawns.
- ♣ Toward end of month plant spring bulbs.

** A systemic solution for Powdery Mildew can be purchased along with commercial Insecticidal Soap Spray at your local Plant Nursery or Home Gardening Store.

Powdery Mildew recipe:

Mix 1-2 teaspoons of baking soda and 1 teaspoon vegetable oil in one quart of water. Spray plants making sure to hit all surfaces including the undersides of leaves. You'll have to do this on a regular basis especially after overhead irrigation or a heavy rain.

Recipes adapted from "Gardening in Montana" by John Cretti.

Insecticidal Soap Recipe:

Mix 1-2 Tablespoons dish soap without bleach or degreaser to 1 gallon of water. Pour into hand-held spray bottle or pump sprayer. Make sure to shake well and spray the undersides of leaves where aphids hide.