



“From the Potting Shed”

Riverview Garden Club Helpful Hints August 2026

Things to do in the garden this month...

Care for Annuals & Perennials

- August is the month to order peony roots for September planting. Peonies should be in the ground about a month before the average first frost date.
- Water plants deeply once or twice a week depending on the heat and humidity.
- Check the water needs of hanging baskets once or twice daily. Wind and sun dry them out quicker than other containers.
- Fertilize container plants and hanging baskets if they look yellow with a ½ strength dose of a balanced liquid fertilizer.
- Continue to deadhead annuals and perennials to encourage continuous bloom.
- Fertilize perennials with a 5-10-5 or 5-10-10 product to encourage continued blooming.

Vegetable Gardening

- Pick summer squash and zucchini every day or two to keep the plants producing.
- Keep an eye out for insect, slug, and snail damage throughout the garden and use proper controls.
- Sketch out where you planted various vegetables in your garden so that next spring when you plant, you can rotate your crops to help prevent disease.
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- Remove old plants that have stopped producing to eliminate a shelter for insects and disease organisms. Replant sites with chard, quick maturing beans or cucumbers, leafy greens etc.
- The best time to gather herbs and flowers for drying and preserving is during the midmorning hours, just after the dew has dried but before the sun causes them to wilt. Tie herbs in clusters with the stems attached and hang upside down to dry.
- Even though tomatoes continue to ripen after picking, fruits develop greatest flavor when allowed to ripen on plants. The exception is cherry tomatoes since many varieties are prone to splitting. Pick any almost ripe ones before a heavy rain.
- Water plants deeply once or twice a week depending on the heat and humidity.

Tend to Fruits

- Renovate strawberry beds by mowing to a height of 1 ½ inches, thinning plants and side-dressing with a balanced fertilizer.
- Pick up, bag, and trash (do not compost) any dropped apples that show signs of disease.
- To reduce the number of pests on your fruit trees for the coming year practice good sanitation by removing and destroying all fallen fruit. Do not compost it.

Check for and Control Insects

- Scout for C-shaped notches on the edges of the leaves of your perennials such as dahlias, roses, basil or coleus that are caused by Asiatic garden beetles.
- Control mosquitoes by eliminating all sources of stagnant water. Clean bird baths and pet's outdoor w often.

Lawns

- Do not add weeds with mature seed heads to the compost pile. Many weed seeds can remain viable and germinate next year when the compost is used.
- Reseeding the lawn in late August gives the new grass two growing periods (fall and spring) before the heat of summer. Be sure to keep the seed moist until germination.

Trees & Shrubs

- Stop pruning evergreen trees and shrubs to avoid promoting new growth that may not harden off before first frost.
- Fruiting plants such as winterberry, holly, and firethorn need regular watering during dry spells to ensure that berries mature and don't drop off.
- Remember that trees and shrubs require water during extended dry periods.

Resource:

University of Connecticut, Home and Garden Education, “August Gardening Tips”

Happy Gardening!