



“From the Potting Shed”

Riverview Garden Club – August Helpful Hints

2022

Things to do in the garden this month...

August is the gateway to fall, but it certainly doesn't feel like it with its typical hot, humid weather. Regardless of the weather conditions, there are some tasks that every gardener should add to their August worklist to get the best head start for their fall gardening. August is the best time to begin planning your fall flowering gardens.

Begin planning and sowing cool-weather annuals and perennials

- Inspect and evaluate your garden beds – are there areas where you'd like more color?
- If you plan on using seeds from a seed catalog, now is the best time to start sowing cool weather annuals like pansies, violas, and snapdragons.
- Get your garden beds ready now by cleaning out weeds, pruning back existing, overgrown plants, and removing and discarding any diseased leaves and stems.

Begin prepping for cool weather vegetables

- Begin your preparations now for a cool-season vegetable garden.
- Pull out failing or under-performing summer vegetables to make room for new additions.
- Be sure to amend any soil with a fresh batch of rich compost and slow-release fertilizer to restore the nutrients which have been depleted by the spring and summer crops.

Divide and transplant iris, peonies, daylilies and any other perennials that have finished blooming

- Dividing overgrown perennials is a perfect way to fill extra space in your garden without having to spend money on new plants.
- Division also encourages stronger root growth, leading to more productive plants in the seasons to come.
- Now is the perfect time to divide perennials like iris, peony, daylily and other perennials coming to the end of their flowering seasons.

- To divide perennials, start by gently lifting the plant out with a garden fork or spade, knocking any excess soil away to expose the ball of roots. Then, with that same spade gently separate the roots down the middle so that you have two equal sections of the plant.
- Replant each piece where you want in the garden.
- Water thoroughly after planting to set them off in the right direction.

Keep ahead of garden pests and diseases

- August can be a pain for the gardener regarding pests and diseases, so it's essential to stay ahead to keep your lawn and gardens healthy going into the fall.
- As Japanese beetles begin to finish their assault of your garden above ground, their larvae (known as grubs) can do a number on your lawn roots below ground.
- Now is the perfect time to plan out and apply a granular Grub Control.
- Spread the product as you would a lawn fertilizer to keep your lawn grub free this fall. (always read the label first!)
- Watch for "sooty mold," from the secretions of aphids, scale, or mealybugs as they feed.
- Treat the plant with an insecticide to clear up the infestation and the sooty mold will eventually wash off with time.
- Look for outbreaks of powdery mildew on many of your plants – that greyish-white powdery substance that appears on the leaves.
- Over time, powdery mildew can stunt photosynthesis, leading to growth and performance problems for your plants.
- Treat powdery mildew by pruning affected areas, cleaning any debris out from under the plants, and applying a multi-purpose fungicide to eliminate any remaining spores.

Prepare your lawn for fall

- Be sure that your mowers are adjusted to cut no more than one-third of the height of your grass.
- If you want to get ahead on your lawn restoration for the fall, now is an excellent time to aerate which improves drainage and allows water and nutrients to access turf roots.
- Check with your lawn care professional about this service.

Continue Weeding and Watering

- Supplement any rainfall to be sure that your garden receives an inch of water per week.
- If the lawn has already turned brown and you've discontinued watering, don't worry! As the weather cools the lawn will revive.
- Stay on top of the weeds since they draw away much needed moisture from your plants.

Happy Gardening!