



“From the Potting Shed”

Riverview Garden Club – Helpful Hints

August 2024

During periods of heat and drought this month, make sure plants have ample water, tackle weeds before they go to seed, and regularly harvest vegetables from your garden.

Things to do this month...

In the Vegetable Garden

- Sow peas in mid to late August for a fall crop.
- Start seeds inside for long maturing fall crops like Brussels sprouts, and other heading brassicas.
- Continue your bug removal pest damage inspections! Remove and treat as needed.
- Harvest onions and garlic as the tops dry and fall over. Braid garlic tops and hang in a cool, dry place. Cut onion tops back to 1" and dry thoroughly before storing. Use any damaged produce immediately.
- Seeds can again be sown for a late crop of leaf lettuce, mustard greens, Swiss chard and spinach.
- Pick summer squash and zucchini every day or two to keep the plants producing.
- Remove old vegetable plants which have stopped producing to eliminate a shelter for insects and disease organisms.
- Dig potatoes after vines have died.
- Harvest cantaloupe when the stem separates from the fruit with gentle prodding.
- After the last raspberry harvest for the year, prepare for next year while also avoiding diseases by pruning out old flowering canes leaving only 3-4 young canes per foot of row. Wait until spring to prune back shoot tips.

- As areas become empty from harvest, build vegetable-garden soil by sowing a fall crop. These “green manures” will be turned under to improve soil tilth and fertility.

Chores and Maintenance:

- Continue deadheading flowers which will allow plants to use energy reserves for a final flower display.
- Make sure that your plants have an ample amount of water during hot, dry periods.
- Some perennial flowers and bulbs will start to go dormant this month. Identify their location with a painted popsicle stick or garden marker which will be helpful come spring.
- Check moisture of hanging baskets and container plantings daily. Keep container plants looking their best by feeding with half-strength of a water-soluble fertilizer each week.
- Sow seeds of biennials, such as hollyhock, Canterbury bells and foxglove.
- Dig, divide, and move daylilies after they have completed their bloom.
- Spring flowering perennials can be divided this month or next. Be sure to do this during the coolest part of the day and water the plants thoroughly after transplanting.
- Avoid pruning trees and shrubs since doing so this late in the season can stimulate new growth that will not harden off in time for the cold winter weather ahead. Delay pruning until the end of the dormant season early next spring.
- Keep weeds pulled before they have a chance to flower and go to seed. Otherwise, they may show up again for many years.
- Fertilize your roses for the last time this month. Do not fertilize them again until next spring. They need to slow their growth to prepare for winter.
- This is a good time to order spring flowering bulbs for next year's early flower display. Plan for different flowering times to extend the season.

Resources: Margaret Roach, A Way To Garden, “August Garden Chores”

Angie Lavezzo, Sow True Seed, “August Garden Chores for All USDA Zones”