

## August Lawn & Garden To-Do List

### Lawn Maintenance and Preparation

- Level low spots, remove weeds, and choose your seed to get ready for fall planting.
- Aerate and dethatch your lawn.
- If there is plenty of rainfall, apply fertilizer.
- Keep mower blade on the highest setting.
- Don't worry if parts of your yard turn brown this time of year – it happens.

### Annuals and Perennials

- Divide and transplant perennials after blooming.
- Trim and fertilize your containers.
- Deal with late-season pests with a spray of water from the hose.
- Treat diseased plants, and remove diseased foliage.
- Prune back vigorous climbers and train them around trellises while the growth is soft.
- Propagate plants by harvesting seeds, taking cuttings, or layering.
- Continue deadheading! Lightly shear prolific bloomers such as catmint and coreopsis.
- Label your plants with garden stakes, particularly perennials that die down to the ground in the fall.
- In colder zones 1-3, begin moving your houseplants indoors to acclimate them.

### Vegetables and Herbs

- Cut herbs to dry or freeze for winter use.
- Plant fall vegetable and herb seeds.
- Plant garlic for spring harvest.
- Enjoy your harvest!

### Shrubs and Trees

- Pick up and destroy fallen fruit from fruit trees to limit insect reproduction.
- Make sure newly planted shrubs and trees get plenty of water.
- Install stakes for training and shaping.

### Plan Ahead

- Place orders for spring bulbs. If you live in a warm climate, put them in the refrigerator to chill.
- Place orders for shrubs and trees to plant in the fall.
- Apply compost starter to new compost to speed up decomposition for fall use.
- Take pictures, or make notes, of plants you like while they're blooming and full of leaves.
- Take note of the growth habits of shrubs for future pruning – they should be at their fullest about now.

### Maintain

- Water, water, water! Early morning is the best time to water – target plants directly, and water deeply. Avoid getting leaves wet in the hot sun, and avoid soaking containers during the hottest part of the day – both of these can burn plants.
- Keep close watch on your birdbaths, water features, and hummingbird feeders – take steps to correct or avoid mold, stagnation, and mosquito larvae.
- Continue weeding to reduce competition for water and nutrients.
- Beware of powdery mildew, which is caused by moisture and humidity. Help prevent mildew by watering in the cool of the morning, when roots can absorb water but excess will evaporate as the day warms. Also avoid overhead sprinkling in mildew-prone areas. Do not compost leaves that are mildewed.
- When the temperature is over 85 degrees, avoid chemical applications such as fertilizer, fungicide, or insecticide.
- Add compost and mulch to keep your garden cool and to prepare for fall planting.