

August in Your Garden

Compiled by: Jan Brider



August heat can extend into the fall, so keep plants hydrated as needed. Pop on the sprinklers for a few minutes at mid day to reduce soil and air temperatures. Also remember your feathered friends by providing water for them.

Plant:

- ✚ Flowers- Summer annuals, tropicals including bougainvillea.
- ✚ Fruit & vegetables-sow winter vegetable seeds to plant out later
- ✚ Cacti/succulents
- ✚ Shrubs-late blooming shrubs can add color to the garden late into fall
- ✚ Bulbs- South African varieties; Freesia, ixia, and other Cape bulbs begin showing up at nurseries this month
- ✚ Plant and grow herbs. They should grow quickly in the warm weather

Pinch, prune or divide:

- ✚ Deadhead annuals; clean up perennials to promote new blooms. If you want to create seeds, stop deadheading at the end of the season.
- ✚ Leave palm fronds on trees as bird nesting sites.
- ✚ Divide bearded iris clumps; replant healthy sections 1 to 2 feet apart.
- ✚ Trim gangly ornamental grasses
- ✚ Cut back fuchsia and marguerites to encourage new blooms
- ✚ Pinch back impatiens and pelargoniums

Feed & water:

- ✚ Keeping plants irrigated is your most important task this month
- ✚ Vulnerable container pots may need daily watering
- ✚ Feed tropicals, potted plants & annuals.
- ✚ Shallow rooted plants such as avocado and citrus need to be watered more frequently
- ✚ Side dress summer veggies.
- ✚ Cut back on watering melons
- ✚ Don't water established natives; water newly planted natives once

Pest Check!

- ✚ Watch for whitefly and scale. A good spray with a hose will help keep foliage clean and wash pests away like spider mites
- ✚ Add additional mulch where needed to help control black spot and mildew on roses.
- ✚ Protect houseplants- Scale, spider mites, and thrips may attack during summer months. Mist plants frequently to increase humidity and reduce stress

Lawns

- ✚ Cut your lawn at the highest recommended setting for your type of grass. Keeping the grass blades higher promotes healthier plants and makes it harder for the weed to break through.
- ✚ When you mow do not remove more than 1/3 at a time and mow at frequent intervals to keep the grass at a consistent length.
- ✚ Water your lawn in heavy intervals rather than shallow to promote deeper root growth

Tools

- ✚ Periodically lubricate tools with moving parts. Doing so prevents rust and corrosion
- ✚ Sharpen tools as needed
- ✚ Keep garden hoses coiled and out of direct sun when not in use.
- ✚ Make sure bird feeders, bird baths and the ground underneath them is clean. Also make sure that the food and water is clean and replaced regularly.

Planning

- ✚ Start planning your spring bulb garden now. Mentally note areas where you want to add bulbs for next year
- ✚ Stop and look at your garden as a whole. Take notes of what's working and what isn't. This will help you plan for next year.



Keep cool and enjoy summer!

Compiled from: Month-by Month Orange County Garden Guide- OC Register, What to do in your garden in August-Sunset Magazine, Lowe's Summer Garden Tips-Lowes.com