

AUGUST

MAINTENANCE

- ⊙ Harvest fruits and vegetables regularly. Tie heavy clusters of tomatoes to supports, and give fruit-laden tree branches extra support as needed to keep them from breaking. Harvest corn when the tassels have withered and the kernels are well formed and squirt milky juice when punctured.
- ⊙ Pick up fallen, decaying fruit that could harbor insects, pests and diseases. If fruits look suspect, toss them in the garbage - not on the compost pile.
- ⊙ Dig, divide, and replant bearded iris rhizomes and Oriental poppies if you haven't done so already.
- ⊙ Dig tulip bulbs now if you plan on replanting in fall and winter. Dry on paper bags or tarp in shady but dry location. When dry, store in refrigerator in paper bags. Never store in plastic bags as the bulbs will 'sweat' and then become moldy.
- ⊙ Remove the foliage from your spring bloomers now (Daffodils, Dutch Iris, Galanthus, etc.), however leave them in the ground to naturalize.
- ⊙ Check irrigation systems to make sure everything is working efficiently, with no runoff.
- ⊙ Renew mulch, as needed. Layer organic material such as ground bark, straw, or leaves over the soil to conserve moisture.
- ⊙ Deep-water large trees and shrubs, using a soaker hose, deep-root irrigator, or hose running slowly in a basin until the soil is well soaked at least to the plant's drip line.
- ⊙ Deep-soak tree basins once a month, shrubs every two weeks.
- ⊙ Take out spent vegetables and improve the soil for cold-season planting by digging in compost.
- ⊙ Lawns may be suffering, so keep up with deep watering.
- ⊙ Perform a soil test on fescue lawn area to determine nutritional needs for fall maintenance.
- ⊙ Line up lawn aeration before fall seeding.
- ⊙ Prepare beds for fall plantings of shrubs, trees and perennials.
- ⊙ To decrease the occurrence of Eutypa in Apricots, prune after harvest in August or September. As Eutypa spores are most prolific in early fall and are spread by splashing rain, pruning now allows pruning wounds to callous before the rains start.

- ⊙ Table grapes should be watered deeply once every 7 to 14 days. Wine grapes, on the other hand, are generally watered less frequently in order to concentrate flavor and sweetness.

FERTILIZING

- ⊙ Apply high-nitrogen fertilizer to summer annuals and container plants.
- ⊙ Give spring-flowering shrubs their final feeding of the year.
- ⊙ Keep feeding chrysanthemums until buds start opening.
- ⊙ Feed rosebushes with a complete fertilizer to get good fall bloom, and make sure they get plenty of water during August's hot days. Snip off old blooms or rose hips.
- ⊙ Warm-season lawns are growing fast now, so feed lightly and water regularly. Don't feed cool-season grasses until fall growth begins.
- ⊙ Fertilize tomatoes.
- ⊙ Feed camellias, azaleas, rhododendrons and fuchsias.

PEST/ WEED CONTROL

- ⊙ Rid fescue lawn of weeds in preparation for fall seeding and fertilization.
- ⊙ Liquid Fence has proved to be extremely effective in deterring deer from yards and gardens. The trick is to use it *exactly* as instructed.
- ⊙ Likewise, Mole & Gopher Med has proven to be effective in ridding yards and gardens of gophers and moles. The secret, again, is to follow the instructions *exactly* as instructed. Mole & Gopher Med will not kill the pests but rather chases them away to someplace else.

PLANTING

- ⊙ Fall is the best time to transplant and install new shrubs and trees because roots can get established before summer's heat arrives again.
- ⊙ Prepare beds by cultivating the soil at least 12 inches deep, then work in a 2- to 3-inch layer of organic matter and fertilizer or compost. Rake planting beds smooth.
- ⊙ Fall vegetables should be planted now. Plant seedlings of broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, and cauliflower, and sow seeds of beets, carrots, chard, lettuce, parsley, peas and radishes directly in the ground.
- ⊙ Sow seeds of flowering cabbage and kale in flats or pots for transplanting into the garden in October.
- ⊙ Sow seeds of fall and winter flowers (calendulas, fairy primroses, forget-me-nots, Iceland poppies, pansies, snapdragons, stock, violas) in flats or pots for transplanting in October.
- ⊙ Perennials that offer long bloom include yarrow, lantana, Mexican bush sage and lavender.
- ⊙ Nourish beneficial insects with buddleia, thyme and zinnias.
- ⊙ Try some cool- season tomatoes this year. Look for short-season varieties such as Stupice, Polar Baby, Polar Star, Siberian and Taxi to start from seed for planting in September.

