

Garden Tips for August/September

August

- Be particularly cautious of using weed killers (herbicides) in hot temperatures, some herbicides can volatilize and cause plant damage to non-target plants. Be sure to read and FOLLOW THE LABEL DIRECTIONS and apply in the right temperature range (on the label) during the season.
- Continue to water your lawn 4-6 inches per month as needed. Do not fertilize this month.
- Prune away excessive vegetation and new blossoms on tomatoes to encourage larger, tastier fruit.
- Plant garlic and cold season crops.
- Fertilize cucumbers, summer squash, and broccoli, white harvesting to maintain production.
- Clean and fertilize strawberry beds.
- Harvest potatoes when the tops die down. Store them in a dark location until use.
- Spider mites prefer our hot and dry environment, especially the month of August, and target specific ornamental shrubs and perennials such as dwarf Alberta spruce, arborvitae and holly hocks. These tiny insects can be controlled by jet spraying more resilient plants with water from your garden hose. This blast of water will kill the spider mite on contact or knock it off the plant to prevent further feeding damage. For larger more persistent infestations, a miticide may be necessary.



September

- Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, and tall fescues are some of the better choices for seeding or sod in Central Oregon. Consider a blended mix of grass seed for drought tolerance. For more information on establishing a new lawn go to <http://eesc.orst.edu/agcomwebfile/edmat/EC1550.pdf>
- Water your lawn approximately three times a week at 1.0 to 2.0 inches per week.
- Dethatch or aerate your lawn if necessary. Thatch is a layer of living and dead grass stems and roots. If your thatch layer is a half inch or greater, it can prevent water, air, and nutrients from penetrating the soil and reaching the roots of your grass; resulting in dry spots. Dethatching allows new grass shoots to grow in thick and lush. Dethatching should be done every other year, particularly in lawn consisting of 100% Kentucky Bluegrass. Clippings do not contribute to the thatch layer. Aeration, the process that pulls out plugs should also be done every other year in spring or fall. This process helps relieve compaction and opens up the soil for adding soil amendment or reseeding.
- Plant asparagus crowns, seed beans, and harvest broccoli, peas, lettuce and radishes.
- Harvest beans, broccoli, cabbage, chard, cucumbers, leeks, potatoes, and carrots.
- Plant asters, mums, pansies, and kale for fall color. The Michaelmas daisy or New York aster varieties (*Aster novi-belgii*) provide great fall color for central Oregon.
- Deep water your trees, shrubs and perennials every five to seven days.
- Continue to compost yard debris and kitchen scraps to create your own organic compost to use in the garden.
- In late September, plant spring flowering bulbs such as daffodils, tulips and crocus. Work phosphorus into the soil below the bulbs. Remember when purchasing bulbs, the size of the bulb is directly correlated to the size of the flower yet to come in spring.

