



AUGUST FLOWER GARDEN GUIDE

Bulbs

- Draw up plans for fall planting.
- Remove dahlia side buds for bigger blooms.
- Remove bulblets from the leaf nodes of lilies that you want to propagate.
- Late in this month, begin preparing for fall bulb planting. Select a well-drained area in sun or partial shade. Clear the area of grass and weeds and dig in two to three inches of compost or manure. A fertilizer such as 12-12-12, bone meal, Bulb Booster or any other commercial bulb fertilizer should also be added at label rates.

Annuals

- Take cuttings from coleus, geraniums, wax begonias, impatiens and fuchsia to grow indoors this winter. All cuttings may not form roots, so take more than you think you'll need. After taking the cuttings, remove all but the upper two or three pairs of leaves. Let the cuttings sit in the open for a day to cure. After dipping the ends in a rooting powder, stick in damp sand to root. Do not cover the cuttings.
- If growth appears pale and slow, use a water soluble fertilizer with phosphorus to improve growth and bloom.
- Pinch the faded flowers and seedheads from summer annuals so they'll keep producing new blooms until frost.

Perennials

- Weed beds on a regular basis so desirable plants don't have to compete for water, nutrients or space.
- Beds need about one inch of water per week during dry weather.
- Plant peonies, iris and daylilies. Divide and replant peonies, iris and daylilies if you haven't done so for several years. For iris, lift plants and cut away root sections affected by borer or crown rot. Cut roots into sections, leaving one or two fans per section. Divisions can then be replanted or shared.
- Stake and tie tall dahlias as necessary. Remove some of the buds and thin the side shoots to encourage dahlias to produce larger flowers.
- Cut back the tops of perennials as they die.
- Continue mildew prevention sprays on aster, tall phlox and Joe-Pye weed.
- Late this month, you can begin to divide and replant spring and summer blooming varieties.
- This is a good time to divide and transplant Oriental poppies.
- Remove spent blooms from dwarf astilbe, early aster, threadleaf coreopsis, Joe Pye weed, baby's breath, hosta, border phlox, false sunflower, tall phlox, and purple coneflower.
- Cut back old growth on delphiniums when new basal growth is observed.
- When dividing perennials, lift with a spading fork, being careful not to damage the roots in the process. Use a sharp knife to cut through the tough root mass. Most perennials benefit from division every three to four years; seven years for daylilies.
- Container-grown perennials can still be planted into early autumn.

Roses

- This is the final month for live pruning on roses. No more pruning should be done after Labor Day; this includes deadheading. After Labor Day, spent blooms can be depetalled to maintain their attractiveness.
- The final granular or liquid fertilizer application, preferably a high potassium formula for cold hardiness, should be made around the middle of this month.
- Sprays for disease prevention should continue.
- You can still plant container roses this month.

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