



Through the Garden Gate

August Gardening Tips and Reminders

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In your garden

Plants and trees that provide color this month include crape myrtles, hydrangeas, viburnums, hypericum and butterfly bush.

Plant ornamental grasses such as miscanthus, pennisetum and hardy pampas grass for motion and contrast.

Fall mums are available - plant now for a colorful autumn.

Check all plants, especially your new plantings for water on a regular basis. Water deeply and thoroughly as needed.

Gator bags provide an easy and great way to keep trees watered during hot and dry months. These bags, can usually hold up to 20 gallons of water, are secured to the trunk of the tree and have a slow drip release process that waters the root ball over a period of 24 hours.

Spruce up your summer landscape with beautiful color in containers and hanging baskets. their buds for next year's blooms.

Fruits and Vegetables

Fertilize fruits and vegetables as needed with a good quality, slow-release vegetable food.

Stake tomato plants or use a tomato cage around mature plants.

If necessary, spray tomato plants and other vegetables to control diseases.

Start seeds for fall vegetables this month, including broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, etc.

Water Gardens

Clear pond water can be achieved with proper plant balance. If the pond is in full sun, 50-70% of its' surface must be covered with foliage such as floating heart, water hyacinth, water poppy, water lily or lotus.

Underwater grasses produce oxygen, helping to main D.O. Levels. Grasses will improve water clarity by extending Nitrate. Use the following guidelines when trying to figure the amount of grasses needed: 1 clump of grass per 1 square foot of surface area for ponds less than 25 square feet; and 1 clump of grass per 2 square feet of surface area for ponds greater than 25 square feet.

Time to fertilize all water lilies and lotus once each month to keep them blooming throughout the season.

Lotus are perfect for container water gardens on the deck or patio. Whiskey barrels make perfect containers for these types of water gardens.

Tropical water lilies make a spectacular show of color for any water garden. Hardy water lilies bloom only during the day, tropical varieties include day and night bloomers. Day blooming tropical water lilies bloom heavier than hardy lilies. The flowers stay open longer each day and they bloom much later into the season. Night blooming tropical water lilies open their flowers at approximately 5pm and do not close until the following morning around 9am. This is the perfect show for those evening barbecues and parties.

If you haven't yet, switch from spring fish food to summer fish food this month, since water temperatures have now risen above 70 degrees. At higher temperatures, fish metabolize at a faster rate, thus creating a need for a diet higher in protein, which the summer food contains.

Lawns

If your lawn is in bad shape due to drought stress, insects, weeds or any other reasons and you think a renovation is in order, August is the time to get started.

August is the best time to control grubs in the lawn. Apply control and water thoroughly.

Fertilize zoysia lawns for the final time this month for the season. If necessary, apply a weed control to kill actively growing

Houseplants

Feed houseplants with a good quality indoor plant food.

If needed, re-pot root bound houseplants to a larger pot.

Visit us at the store and view the large selection of pots we have available.

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