August Garden Tips

GENERAL

- Order spring-flowering bulbs for fall planting.
- Keep the garden well watered during dry weather.
- Clean up fallen leaves that can harbor disease and insect pests over the winter.
- Turn compost pile and keep it moist.
- Plan landscaping projects now for fall planting.

HOME (Indoor plants and activities)

- Take cuttings from plants such as impatiens, coleus, geraniums and wax begonias to overwinter indoors.
- Cut flowers from the garden to bring a little color indoors or to dry for use later

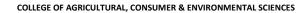


- Don't fertilize and prune woody plants between mid-August and leaf fall. It stimulates late growth that will not have time to harden off properly before winter.
- Keep faded flowers pinched off bedding plants to promote further flowering and improve plant appearance.
- © Cut strawflowers intended for dried flower arrangements when the blooms are only half open. Tie small bundles of the flowers together and hang them upside down in a well-ventilated place to dry.
- Out <u>sunflowers</u> and dry the heads for roasting or winter bird food.

GARDEN (Vegetables, fruits and herbs)

- Temperatures above 90°F often lead to poor fruit set in vegetable crops; upper 90°s will stop fruit set in most crops.
- Harvest onions and potatoes after the tops yellow and fall, then cure them in a warm, dry, well-ventilated area.
- Pick beans, tomatoes, peppers and squash often to encourage further production.
- Harvest sweet corn and watermelon when ripe.
- Remove old plants which have stopped producing to reduce insects and disease.
- To prevent volunteer plants the following spring, remove flowers or harvest seed before it falls from herbs that self-sow such as dill, chamomile and fennel.
- To reduce the number of pests on your fruit tree for the coming year, pick up and destroy all fallen fruit.
- Prune out and destroy the raspberry and blackberry canes that bore fruits this year.





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August To Do List		
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Nicole Flowers-Kimmerle, horticulture educator, nflower2@illinois.edu | ILRiverHort blog extension.illinois.edu/blogs/liriverhort University of Illinois Extension, Fulton-Mason-Peoria-Tazewell Unit

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	Stephan H, on Unsplash

August Pictures/Sketches/ Observations

