



August



Gardening Activities

Prepare:

- Clean out and trim native brush, cool-season ornamental grass (2/3 height), trees, vines, and water sprouts from deciduous fruit trees.
- Lightly prune roses, fuchsias, and wisteria. Prune and train espaliers.
- Stop pinching chrysanthemums, and propagate and clean up daylilies.
- Cut bloom stalks from yellow fortnight lilies; remove seedpod from white fortnight lilies.
- Remove dead and dying foliage from date palms using sterilized tools.
- Continue to harvest vegetable and fruit when ready.
- Use double potting to keep container plant roots cool.
- In coastal areas give indoor ferns equal time outdoors in shade.

Fertilize & Water:

- Feed fuchsias, tuberous begonias, ferns, roses, cycads, cymbidiums (high N), and water lilies.
- Fertilize tropicals and fortnight lilies (follow up with water).
- Do not fertilize deciduous fruit trees.
- Fertilize warm-season grasses (except Adalayd & Kikuyu).
- Fertilize cool-season grasses that show signs of N deficiency.
- Fertilize biennials started from seed in July, and container grown succulents (liquid fertilizer).
- Maintain watering needs of all garden plants and trees. Take time to evaluate irrigation system.
- Do not water lithops or summer deciduous plants.
- Deep water mature wisteria, but reduce water for melons when they start to ripen.

Planting:

- In coastal zones- plant tropicals, succulents, cassias, flame eucalyptus, and perennials.
- In interior zones- plant crape myrtle, and buffer zones between home and chaparral.
- Transplant biennials started from seed, palms, papayas, and bananas.
- Start cool-season flowers and vegetables from seed.

Pest and Weed Control:

- Control weeds by cultivating, mulching, or hand pulling. Release beneficial insects.
- Control pests and diseases on roses, fuchsias, Canary Island date palms, oleander and cool-season lawns (white grubs).
- Control fireblight (remove branches), and nematode and fungal problems with soil solarization.
- Check cycads for scale
- Control crabgrass with crabgrass killer. Look for and treat sod webworm on cool-season lawns.