# AUGUST GARDEN CHORES

 Our gardens are in full swing this month. There’s lots to enjoy and keep us on our toes.

**Vegetables and fruit trees:**

* Summer prune fruit trees after all the fruit has been harvested. Trim trees to a manageable height. Remove crossing branches to allow light into the center of the tree.
* Remove water sprouts from citrus and stone-fruit trees.
* Pick vegetables as they ripen to make room for new fruit to develop. Remove spent vegetables and add them to your compost pile.
* Keep your compost pile turned and moist. Composting occurs faster in warm weather.

**Flowers and houseplants:**

* Divide birds of paradise, iris, belladonna lilies and daylilies after blooming.
* Cut back spent hydrangeas, leaving 3 or 4 buds per stem. Retain stems that didn’t bloom this year; they’ll flower next season.
* Cut back fuchsias, Felicia daisies, marguerite daisies, bachelor buttons, delphiniums, pansies and violas to encourage a second bloom in the fall.
* Pinch back geraniums, begonias and impatiens.
* Feed azaleas and camellias with an acid fertilizer.
* Inspect houseplants for scale, spider mites and thrips. Spritz them with water to dislodge pests or use insecticidal soap. Mist plants frequently to increase humidity.

**Pests**

* Crinkled new growth and squiggly tracks on the backsides of citrus leaves indicate citrus leafminer. No treatment is needed. But avoid pruning and fertilizing this time of year as it promotes new growth for larvae to feed on.
* Bagrada bugs occur on many plants in the mustard family, including kale, broccoli, cabbage and sweet alyssum. Scoop or vacuum up pests and dispose of them in a sealed garbage bag.
* Bougainvillea looper larvae chew scalloped edges on the leaves. Treat young larvae with Bt.
* Brown spots on avocado leaves are signs of persea mites. Spray the undersides of leaves with a strong stream of water and repeat weakly until infestation is controlled. Stressed trees are most susceptible, so irrigate trees appropriately.
* Watch for leaf-footed bugs on tomatoes, fruit trees and roses. Shake pests into a container of soapy water.

**References:**

CITRUS LEAFMINER: [http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn74137.html](http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn74137.html%20%20)

BAGRADA BUGS: <http://ipm.ucanr.edu/pestalert/pabagradabug.html>

BOUGAINVILLEA LOOPER: <http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/GARDEN/PLANTS/INVERT/bougainloop.html>

Bt: [http://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=24119](%20http%3A/ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=24119)

PERSEA MITES: [http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/r8400211.html](%20http%3A/ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/r8400211.html)

LEAF-FOOTED BUGS: <http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn74168.html>