



## August Tips



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The August garden bounty sometimes can be too much. Other times it can be too little. This month will be a good lesson for what to plant and what not to plant next year.

You will have a winter goldmine in your garden if you plan and plant your seeds this month and next month, giving the plants a chance to grow when it is warm and then producing when it gets cooler.

### Vegetables and Fruits-

Sow beets, broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbages, carrots, cauliflower, celery, chard, endive, escarole, garlic, kale, kohlrabi, leeks, heading lettuces, thick leaved lettuces, onions, parsley, peas, potatoes, radishes, shallots and spinach.

You still can sow summer maturing crops such as bush beans, cucumbers, oakleaf lettuce, potatoes, New Zealand spinach and squash. Keep the seed beds well watered till the seeds germinate. Make sure they are not in direct sun during the day, as they are very tender and can burn easily.

Using a whole package of seeds can sometimes be too much for any gardener, sow a dozen or more seeds of lettuce, carrots, and spinach at a time every two to three weeks from now until October. By planting in succession you will have a bounty of harvest through winter.

When you plan the layout of your fall and winter garden try to plant heavy feeders after light feeders and visa versa. This way you are not depleting the soil of all the nutrients. Some plants such as legumes put nitrogen back into the soil. This nitrogen is then ready to be used by the next crop planted. Use crop rotation whenever possible.

## August Tips (cont.)

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Heavy feeders include beets, broccoli, cabbage, celery, collards, corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, okra, parsley, pumpkins, radishes, rhubarb, spinach, squash, and tomatoes. Light feeders include carrots, chards, garlic, leeks, mustard, onions, parsnips, peppers, potatoes, rutabaga, shallots, sweet potatoes, and turnips.

Sow onion bulb seed now to provide green onions in the winter and onion bulbs in the springtime. If left in the soil they will mature into full size bulbs the following summer. If harvested earlier you can use them as pearl onions.

You can root cuttings of herbs to keep a bounty of herbs growing. Try planting at different times to keep the harvest going.

Do not allow fruit to mature on the plants it will cut down on fruit the plant will produce. In other words keep the plants picked. Another reason for a slow down of fruit production is hot dry weather. Harvest fruits and vegetables as early as possible to extend the shelf life of the fruit or vegetables.

Freeze any excess tomatoes. Wash the tomatoes, core and then quarter them or freeze them whole for later use. The skins will pop off when they are thawed.

If vegetable plants look bad from insect damage or age, prune off leaves and then water well. Healthy new leaves and blossoms will appear.

Vine crops can be pinched at their tips and side shoots will take over the production and growth.

Towards the end of the month, pinch off blossoms from eggplant, peppers, melons, squash and tomatoes. That way the plant will spend energy ripening the fruit already set and not trying to use energy to ripen fruit before the cold sets in. If you haven't fertilized the brambles yet August is a good time to catch up on this chore.

Remove suckers and watersprouts from trees. Water all trees deeply, clean up leaves and fruit debris that have fallen. Cut and destroy diseased or dead limbs. These clean-up efforts will help prevent diseases and insects from hiding and doing damage to the trees.

### Ornamentals-

Sow or transplant alyssum, amaranthus, balsam, fibrous begonia, calendulas (winter marigold), candytuft, celosia, columbines, coral bells, coreopsis, cosmos, gloriosa daisy, coneflower, black-eyed-susan, marguerite and Shasta daisies, dahlias, delphiniums, dianthus, sweet William, pinks, forget-me-nots, foxgloves, gaillardias, gerberas, geums, gypsophila, hollyhocks, impatiens, larkspur, linarias, lobelia, marigold, nasturtiums, nemesias, pansies, petunias, phlox, oriental and Iceland poppies, portulaca, moss rose, fairy primrose, scabiosas, schizanthus, snap-dragons, statice, limonium, sea lavender, stock, sweet peas, vinca, violas, and zinnias.

Refrigerate delphinium seeds for planting later this fall. Others that germinate in cool are pansies, primroses, and violas. Perennials to transplant include daylilies, bearded iris, lilies, peonies, and oriental poppies.

If you are not going to have a garden in the winter, try using cover crops such as alfalfa, soybeans, winter rye, and winter wheat. Otherwise you can start looking into all the lovely flowers that love the cooler temperatures that will be coming up.

July 30, 2009