



August in the Garden

Sources: Texas Garden Almanac, Dr. Doug Welsh, Professor & Horticulturist, Texas A&M University, Texas Gardener Magazine, Chris S. Corby, Editor, Fort Bend County

Master Gardeners, (www.fgmg.com)

Garden Tasks



- *Here we go again! Mulch flower beds, vegetable garden, around fruit trees, to conserve moisture. Continue to monitor water needs closely.
- *Prune roses back about 1/3 to encourage robust fall blooming. Fertilize with a nitrogen fertilizer and water in well. Repeat in two weeks if new growth is slow.
- *Continue to deadhead spent blooms on crepe myrtles.
- *This is a tough month for our lawns. Water between 2am and 6am to limit evaporation. When the sun comes up, moisture on the foliage will dry which will help prevent disease.
- *Container plants needs special attention during August. Some may need water every day. If some plants are showing stress you may need to move the container to a shadier location.
- *Keep a close eye on the water needs of fruit and nut trees. Pecan trees are developing the kernel meat now and fruit trees are setting next year's buds, so water is essential for a good harvest next year.
- *August is a good time to prepare beds for fall planting. Work in several inches of compost, then mulch. The heat and humidity of August will quickly decompose these materials and enriched the soil.

What to Plant



- *If you did not get your tomatoes, peppers and eggplant in last month, time is running out! They must be in before mid-August. This month you can add green beans (bush or pole), lima beans, multiplying onions, okra, Irish potatoes (from seed potatoes), radishes (late in August), tomatillos, summer squash and cucumbers to your vegetable garden. Provide afternoon shade for new seeds or transplants for the first week or so.
- *In late August transplants can be started for fall blooming plants. These include petunias, alyssum, ornamental kale and cabbage, nasturtium, calendula, cornflower, hollyhocks, snapdragons, stock, pansies, Johnny-jump-ups and lobelia. Start the seeds in a shady area or bright indoor location near a sunny window. After seedlings begin growing move them to a location with morning sun. Plant in flower beds in late September or early October.