

August

- When watering lawns during hot weather, do it early in the morning, otherwise, much of the water will evaporate. Use a sprinkler that produces large drops of water instead of a fine mist.
- Every weed that ripens seed means more trouble next year. Control weeds before they go to seed.
- Continue to remove spent blooms (Deadhead) and weed as necessary.
- Start selecting your favorite bulb varieties by searching out bulb catalogs. Order bulbs now to be planted in the fall.
- The best time to buy Chrysanthemums is late summer as soon as they become available. Purchase plants that are not yet in bloom.
- Remove annuals that have finished blooming or are overgrown. Mulch empty area well to deter weeds.
- Take cuttings of favorite annuals or sow seeds in pots for winter flowering indoors. These bedding plants root easily: coleus, geraniums, impatiens, wax begonias and fushia.
- Plant autumn flowering crocus, sternbergia, colchicum, and other fall flowing bulbs as soon as they become available at garden centers.
- Keep tall flowers staked and remove dead stalks.
- Plant the bulbs of hardy amaryllis or magic lily in August as soon as received.
- Plan changes in your perennial plantings now. Autumn is usually the best time for moving and dividing perennials. Peonies, Bleeding Heart and Oriental Poppies grow better if left undisturbed so plan around them.
- Now is a good time to go over all the coldframe sashes and greenhouse glazing, replace broken glass, putty and repaint. If you don't have a cold frame, now is a good time to build one.
- Order peony roots now for planting in September. Plant about a month before the average first frost date in your area.
- Clean up fallen rose and peony leaves. They harbor disease and insect pests over the winter if left on the ground. Do not compost.
- Root cuttings of woody shrubs and evergreens, such as azaleas, holly and hydrangea.
- Water shrubs deeply once a week during August.