



# AUGUST

## GARDENING

## TO DO LIST



### VEGETABLES & HERBS

- ☐ prepare the vegetable garden for new plants
- ☐ start planting cool-season vegetables (i.e. broccoli, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, kale, cauliflower, collards, mustards, turnips, lettuce) in mid-August
- ☐ harvest white storage potatoes (dig up when plants begin to die, lay them on the ground for a few hours, then store them in a cool, dark spot without washing)
- ☐ harvest melons (watermelons when the first tendril next to the plant turns brown & the bottom of the melon develops a yellowish spot; muskmelons when they easily twist off the vine)
- ☐ pick peppers before fully ripe to encourage more pepper growth & avoid fungal disease
- ☐ treat any tomatoes, cucumbers or melons with Blossom End Rot (mushy, brown spot on the opposite end from the stem) with Bonide Blossom End Rot Spray

### SHRUBS & TREES

- ☐ water deeply (not frequently)
- ☐ get any last pruning done now (or wait until early winter or next year)
- ☐ water trees in the "hell strip" between the sidewalk & curb (if applicable) at least once every couple of weeks; more often is better
- ☐ remove spent blooms from crape myrtles to encourage new growth & flower production

### ANNUALS & PERENNIALS

- ☐ plant in-bloom perennials (e.g. aster, boneset, goldenrod & ironweed) for flowers from now until fall
- ☐ deadhead perennial flowers (unless they have showy seedheads or seedheads that attract birds)
- ☐ fertilize flowering annuals for more blooms

### LAWN

- ☐ reduce weeds in preparation for next month's seeding
- ☐ if lawn is weedy, bag clippings when mowing to reduce weed seed

### PESTS

- ☐ keep spraying deer repellants if deer are a problem
- ☐ treat plants with spider mites (if brown or off-color patches develop, place a sheet of white paper under a branch & shake; you will be able to see tiny things moving on the paper if it's mites); direct a strong spray of water under the leaves of the plant every couple of days to wash mites off, or treat with horticultural oil
- ☐ look for signs of aphids or other sucking insects on tropicals & ornamentals (shiny, sticky leaves are a good indicator) & treat with a strong stream of water, neem or insecticidal soap