

August in the garden...



1. Purchase fall blooming mums while the buds are still tight. Getting mums started early will mean a more natural appearance and longer lasting color when they bloom.
2. Order spring bulbs now.
3. Fertilize hybrid tea roses **early** in August with $\frac{1}{2}$ cup 5-10-5 granular fertilizer to give them the boost they need to produce big fall flowers.
4. Water shrubs **weekly** to a depth of 5-6 inches during August. Some varieties start setting buds for next year's blooms.
5. Keep garden and flower beds free of fallen foliage since they may harbor diseases.
6. Dead-head spent flowers and harvest seeds for next spring plantings.
7. If rainfall is insufficient during August, provide young trees, shrubs and new plantings with a deep watering on a weekly basis.
8. Discontinue fertilizing plants, shrubs and trees mid-August.
9. Water plants early in the day so that roots can absorb the moisture before the hot sun dries the soil.
10. Begin dividing perennials, starting with bearded iris and daylilies. Pot some up for spring plant swaps!