



AUGUST

1. Lightly prune roses to promote abundant fall color.
2. Be sure to keep a thick layer of mulch over beds and the soil around trees to conserve moisture.
3. Plant lycoris (spider lilies)
4. And bearded Iris
5. Prepare new beds for fall planting by removing grass and weeds and adding compost.
6. If you need professional help, now is a good time to develop a design for future plantings.
7. Don't fertilize shrubs this month, or next. Wait until after leaf drop. Encouraging growth now sets plants up for stress when temperatures drop in the fall.
8. Get any summer shaping on fruit trees and blooming shrubs done in the middle of the month but hold off on significant pruning until temperatures have cooled down in the fall.
9. Weed, tip-prune, pinch and deadhead flowers as usual.
10. Water if you don't get enough rain. Seeds need constant moisture, seedlings need regular gentle watering, and the vegetable patch needs an inch a week. Any shrubs and trees set out this past year need water during dry periods.
11. If you have a worm compost container, make sure your worm herd stays cool and moist during the hot days of summer. Add some moistened high carbon bedding (chopped dry leaves and/or torn newspaper) whenever you add kitchen scraps, especially after a melon binge when you've got lots of rinds
12. Late August is a good time to prepare areas for reseeding your lawn.
13. Deadhead, deadhead, deadhead. Make bouquets for the house while blooms still look good.