## August Gardening To-Do

- Don't get discouraged. August is a tough month on gardens.
  They start to get ratty-looking and fewer things are in
  flower. But even 15 or 20 minutes of weeding, cutting back,
  deadheading, mulching, and watering can make a huge
  difference.
- Harvest early and often for the most tender, sweetest produce and to keep plants producing well. Tip: You can harvest tomatoes when they're about halfway red. Bring them indoors (away from insects) to finish ripening indoors on a countertop. They'll still have that great, full home-grown tomato flavor!
- Annual flowers are at their peak now--a great reason to plant them. They're one of the few things that look fresh this time of year. Keep them well watered, deadheaded, and well fertilized (apply a granular or liquid all-purpose fertilizer according to package directions).
- Keep up with watering chores, especially with newly planted things. Containers may well need a watering daily or even twice a day.
- Avoid planting, transplanting, or dividing anything other than a tree or shrub right now. It's so hot and dry that smaller plants will struggle. It's best to wait for cooler, wetter weather.



Notes