

GARDENING TIPS FOR AUGUST

Revised 12/19

Annuals & Perennials

- Remove faded blooms on annuals and perennials.
- Pinch out tips and buds of chrysanthemums to get blooms in fall instead of now.
- Cut back faded annual flowers by half for a second bloom.
- Look for aphids and spider mites.
- Sow seeds of hollyhocks, English daisies, for next year's blooms.
- Plant fall blooming bulbs.
- Divide and transplant iris, daylilies.
- Stake tall growing plants.
- Retain moisture, control soil temperature and diseases by spreading. 2-3 inches of mulch.
- Control weeds.
- Wrap cheesecloth around sunflower heads to keep the birds away. Head is ready to harvest when the back turns brown.
- Water container plants as required. Soil dries out quickly.
- Collect hosta, iris and blackberry lily seeds for planting next spring.

Fruits

- Harvest fruit as it ripens.
- Spray for insects and diseases, as required. **Read the label for waiting time between spraying and harvest.**
- Fertilize fruit trees based on soil test, otherwise, one pound of 10-10-10 per inch of trunk diameter, but not more than three pounds per tree.
- Fertilize blueberries one ounce of 10-10-10 per foot of bush height, but no more than 6 ounces per bush.
- Prune long sprouts in center of blueberry bushes after harvest.
- Tie canes of blackberries and raspberries to wire arbors.
- Water fig and apple trees, as required, as the fruit begins to ripen.

Trees and Shrubs

- Propagate woody shrubs and evergreens by taking softwood cuttings.
- Remove blooms from shrub roses as they fade.
- Remove suckers from base of cherry, dogwood and crabapple trees.
- Remove dead flower clusters from crape myrtles.
- Lightly prune shrubs, if required, so new growth will harden before cold weather.
- Lightly and selectively prune wisteria to shape and enhance next year's blooms.
- Prune or cut down trees or shrubs attacked by ambrosia beetles.
- Look for spider mites. Insecticidal soap will help control them.
- Pull down and destroy big webs made by fall webworms.
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See annual Rose Maintenance Guide [Rose Maintenance schedule](#)

Check for various pests and diseases and spray if required:

- Arborvitae: Needle blight.
- Azaleas: Canker, dieback, caterpillars, stem borer.
- Boxwood: spider mites.
- Crape myrtle: Powdery mildew, leaf spot, aphids, ambrosia beetles, planthopper.
- Euonymus: Scale
- Gardenia: Whitefly, leaf spot.
- Hydrangea: Leaf spot, root rot.
- Holly: caterpillars.
- Ivy: Anthracnose.
- Junipers: bagworms, spider mites, needle blight.
- Leyland cypress: Bot canker, Seridium canker, needle blight, bagworms.
- Oak: Orange-striped oakworm from now through October. <http://www.walterreeves.com/insects-and-animals/orange-striped-oak-worm-2/>

- Oak: Spray oak slime flux with a solution of 1 part bleach and 15 parts water four times – four days apart.
 - Pine: Bark beetles, needle scale, sawfly larvae.
 - Roses: Black spot, Powdery mildew, Thrips.
 - Rhododendron: Canker, dieback, caterpillars, planthopper, stem borer.
- Water spring planted trees and shrubs. Need 1 inch of water per week. Mature trees need deep watering. Trees may lose up to 10% of their leaves during drought. Additional information at
 - <http://www.walterreeves.com/landscaping/drought-watering-trees/>
 - Perform a tree survey. Form available at http://www.gfc.state.ga.us/community-forests/management/trees-storm-safety/HomeownersRole_000.pdf

The Georgia Forestry Commission's on line service —“Ask the Arborist”. Complete a form and a certified arborist will answer questions and evaluate conditions.

<http://www.gfc.state.ga.us/community-forests/ask-the-arborist/index.cfm>

Turf

- Plant Bermuda sod.
- Fertilize Bermuda.
- Do not fertilize fescue.
- Water lawns deeply observing watering restrictions.
- Mow grass at proper height. Keep the blade sharpened.
- Check for white grubs, spittle bugs and green June beetle in centipede.
- Apply post-emergent herbicides as required.
- For detailed information on turf care and diseases go to: www.georgiaturf.com
- Get soil tested in preparation for fall seeding of fescue.

Vegetables

- Plant snap beans, beets, carrots, cucumbers, mustard, summer squash, and turnips.
 - Start plants for broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, collards, kale, onions in half shaded area for transplanting in September.
 - Harvest vegetables regularly to prolong production.
 - Mulch between rows to retain moisture, control soil temperature and diseases.
 - Clean harvested rows immediately to prevent insect and disease buildup.
 - Clean off rows of early crops and use rows for replanting or keep fallow for fall crops.
- **Helpful tomato publications:**
Common Tomato Diseases in Georgia
<http://www.walterreeves.com/food-gardening/tomato-disease-guide/>
Tomato Insect Pests
http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/pests/plant_pests/veg_fruit/hgic2217.html
Tomato Problems
<http://vegetableonline.ppath.cornell.edu/DiagnosticKeys/TomLeaf/TomLeafKey.html>
<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/vegetable/problem-solvers/tomato-problem-solver/stems/>
 - Water vegetables, if required. Do not let tomatoes dry out.
 - Check for various beetles and bugs. Spray as required. Read the label for waiting time between spraying and harvest.
 - Keep a logbook of problems so they can be prevented next year.
 - Plan your fall garden. See “Vegetable Garden Calendar” and prepare soil for September and October plantings
<http://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.cfm?number=C943>
 - Information on insects and diseases see
http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/C%201054_1.PDF

Water On March 8, 2018, The Director of Georgia Environmental Protection Division lifted the Drought Level 1 declaration. Outdoor irrigation is permitted 7 days a week before 10AM and after 4PM.

For more information or further clarification please review the [frequently asked questions](#).

We encourage customers to conserve our water resources. Information on indoor and outdoor water conservation can be found on the [Water Efficiency Program pages](#). Cobb County Water System has free conservation kits and comprehensive education resources on how to use water efficiently indoors and outdoors.

- Read “Using Gray Water in the Landscape”
<http://ucanr.edu/sites/sbmg/files/201598.pdf>
 - Read “Best Management Practices for Landscape Water Conservation “
<http://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.cfm?number=C873>
 - Water slowly and deeply. Deep watering encourages root growth.
 - Use drip irrigation or soaker hoses. They use 50% less water than sprinklers.
 - Check your irrigation system. (1) Is the timer set correctly? (2) Are all the nozzles working? (3) Are all the nozzles the same type? There is a significant variance in water applied between rotary sprinklers and spray heads.
 - Set a timer and/or use a rain gauge when watering the lawn or garden.
 - Check outdoor faucets, sprinklers and hoses for leaks. Replace washers as required.
 - Select plants that are drought tolerant and have low water needs. Group plants with similar water requirements in the same zone. For a listing see
<http://www.ecoterrallandscape.com/cgi-bin/ViewTopic.pl?Topic=00-061506dt>
 - Use a rain barrel. For instructions to build one:
<http://www.walterreeves.com/landscaping/rain-barrel-homemade-3/>
 - Save water and use it wisely. Don’t water the lawn on windy days. Water plants, if required, applying one inch of water per week. **Observe current Georgia watering restrictions.**
- Check with your local water system to determine if they have more restrictive regulations.**

Fire

- Burning is **NOT** permitted from May 1 to October 1. See <http://fire.cobbcountyga.gov> for additional information and restrictions in specific areas.

Environment

- Non-native invasive plants are a problem in Georgia and the Southeast. Its not only kudzu, Chinese privet, and golden bamboo. Become aware of these exotic pest plants and what you can do to inhibit them. Go to
<http://www.gaeppc.org> Click on plant list
http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/fia/manual/Nonnative_Invasive_Plants_of_Southern_Forests.pdf
- Protect the environment, watersheds and sewer system by the proper disposal of grease, hazardous household products and pesticides. Go to
https://cobbcounty.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2316&Itemid=1366

Other

- Watch for fire ant mounds. Treat as required.
- Eliminate mosquito breeding places. Drain contained water every three days.
- To reduce next year’s Japanese beetles, apply an insecticide now to control the grubs.
- Control kudzu, poison ivy, honeysuckle and ivy with herbicides. Plants are beginning to pull nutrients from leaves into roots thus increasing effectiveness of herbicides.
- If you spray pesticides (insecticide, fungicide, herbicide) do it in the cooler hours of the evening. Some chemical treatments are ineffective when exposed to temperatures above 85°F. Read the label.
- Dispose of pesticides correctly. <http://www.walterreeves.com/tools-and-chemicals/pesticides-disposing>
- Apply 2-3 inches of mulch to reduce evaporation, to control weeds, and to keep soil temperatures down.
- Furnish water for birds. Change the water every three days to control mosquito breeding.
- Fertilize indoor plants moved to out of doors.
- Take root cuttings of non-woody house plants.
- To help reduce soil borne insects, disease organisms and weeds without pesticides, use “Solarization”
- <http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn74145.html>
- The key to reducing problems with soil insects in the garden is to keep the site clean. Frequent cultivation will help reduce grubs, nematodes and weeds.
- Keep a logbook of problems so they can be prevented next year.

- Analyze your landscape and its microclimates.
- <http://www.ugaurbanag.com/content/microclimate>
- Prevent heat related health problems
<http://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/fitness/in-depth/exercise/art-20048167?pg=2>
- Various horticultural information is available on Cobb Extension's website: <http://ugaextension.org/cobb>
- Information on forest pests is available from the USDA Forest Service www.forestpests.org/southern/
- Learn about the plant nutrients found in soil and air and how they are utilized by plants.
- <http://www.ncagr.gov/cyber/kidswrld/plant/nutrient.htm>

Specific instructions on fertilizing, pest and disease control, propagating and pruning are available from the Extension Office. Call us at 770 528-4070 or see our website <http://www.ugaextension.org/cobb>

For a soil test, bring 2 cups of dry soil to the Extension Office. Cost is \$9.00 per sample, payable by cash, check or credit card.



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EXTENSION

Cobb County