

Newspaper: Baxter Bulletin
News Article
Mark D. Keaton,
County Extension Agent-
Telephone: 425-2335
Date: August 4, 2004

AUGUST GARDEN CHECKLIST

In this week's article I want to mention some things gardeners need to be considering for August. The following is a garden checklist:

- ✓ August is a great month to start your fall vegetable garden. Bush beans, cucumbers, summer squash and other short season vegetables can be planted now. Cool season vegetables such as radishes, beets, carrots, lettuce, and others can also be planted at this time. To ensure a good stand of fall crops from seed it's best to cover rows with burlap, paper, straw or even boards to aid in keeping the soil moist and cool.
- ✓ Add water to your compost pile during extremely dry periods so that it remains active. Turn the pile to generate heat throughout for proper sterilization.
- ✓ Irrigated bermuda or zoysia lawns can be fertilized once again using 3 pounds of ammonium nitrate per 1,000 square feet. Around September 1 you can apply 1 to 2 pounds of 0-0-60 per 1,000 square feet for grass to develop a winter hardy root system.
- ✓ Trees take a beating with high temperatures and lack of rain. If you have a prized tree you want to keep, water once a week. When you water, water deep. It is better to water more in depth, less often and early in the morning.
- ✓ Sharpen or replace mower blades as needed. Shredded leaf blades are an invitation to disease and allow more stress on the grass. For an average lawn you should sharpen your blades three times a season.
- ✓ August/September is a good time to get rid of poison ivy and unwanted honeysuckle. Be sure to follow the label directions. Since they are perennials, applying glyphosate (example: Roundup) now can keep them from storing up nutrients for winter and reduce the chance of their surviving until spring.
- ✓ Avoid pruning spring flowering trees and shrubs now because they are setting flower buds. Adequate moisture now will give abundant color next spring.
- ✓ Strawberry plants are also setting flower buds this month and into September. Fertilize late this month to early September with 4 to 5 cups ammonium nitrate per 1,000 square foot bed. Moisture is also critical for good flower bud set and ultimately a good harvest next spring.
- ✓ Tip prune your crape myrtles now by removing the clusters of seed capsules. Your crape myrtle will have a neater appearance and will possibly bloom again this fall.

- ✔ Fall webworms are showing up in trees. They particularly like pecan, cherry, and persimmon but can be found in almost any tree and occasionally shrubs. If control is needed, you can use BT, Sevin, Malathion, Orthene, or Marlate.
- ✔ Harvest seedheads of sunflowers as the heads begin to droop and leaves turn brown. Prompt harvest is necessary to protect the seeds from birds and from falling to the ground.
- ✔ Make your last fertilizer application in early August on your roses. Continue deadheading and spraying fungicide and insecticide. Funginex will control most foliage diseases, while Orthene (acephate) is a good choice for insect problems. Rose beds can produce some of the best blooms in the fall. Be sure to keep the soil evenly moist.
- ✔ Rejuvenate tired annuals by removing faded flowers and cutting back long, leggy stems. Feed with a fertilizer and the plants will be back in bloom in a few weeks. If they are too far gone, pull them out and replace with new ones for fall. Although marigolds are usually considered a summer annual, they are becoming a popular alternative to mums and may actually bloom longer.
- ✔ Powdery mildew is a common fungal disease on trees and shrubs. Crape myrtles, lilacs and dogwoods are very susceptible. If you have a powdery mildew problem, spray with Funginex, Daconil or Immunox.
- ✔ Horticulture entries are sought for the Baxter County Fair (September 14-18). Entries range from all types of vegetables, fruits, flowers, plants, and field crops. The Baxter County Fair is held in Mountain Home with entries accepted September 14 from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m.

For more information on any of the above points, contact the Baxter County Cooperative Extension office at 425-2335.