

MONTHLY GARDENING CHECKLIST

August



FOR THE GARDEN

Seasonal Color

- Replace tired components of container plantings with colorful Zinnias, Dahlias, and Coleus.
- Plant blooming annuals like Marigolds, Zinnias, Vinca, and Million Bells to liven up pots or landscape plantings.

Planting & Maintenance

- Mulch beds with **G&B Soil Building Conditioner**.
- Provide temporary shade for new/vulnerable plantings when prolonged high temps are expected, and water with diluted liquid fertilizer like **Alaska Fish Emulsion**.
- Deep water Spring-blooming and established landscape plants for bigger blooms next season; deep water mature trees/shrubs monthly during hot, dry weather.
- Make watering easy while you're away and leave clear instructions for friends that are checking on your plants; move pots and hanging baskets into shady locations.
- Trade out old hose for a tangle-free **Garden Hose Coil**.
- Shear and shape broad-leaved shrubs/hedges; protect with shade cloth to prevent sunburn during high heat.
- Lightly tip prune to shape deciduous trees, Japanese maples, and summer-flowering shrubs after bloom.
- Check for pests and treat as needed:
 - » Root weevils in ornamental shrubs and flowers like Rhodies/Hollyhocks—treat with **beneficial nematodes**.
 - » Scale insects in Camellias, Holly, and Maples; treat as needed with **beneficial nematodes** and/or **neem oil**.
 - » Caterpillars on veggies, Geraniums, Petunias; control with **Bonide Captain Jack's** or remove by hand.
 - » Yellow jackets and wasps; control with lures/traps, but remember—they prey on caterpillars and other pests.

Edible Gardening

- Fertilize summer crops such as Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Beans, and Squash for continued harvests with **G&B Tomato, Vegetable & Herb Fertilizer**.
- Clean/fertilize Strawberry bed and add new plants.
- Check apple maggot traps; spray apple trees if needed. Watch for codling moths and spider mites—remove by hand or spray with **Bonide Captain Jack's**.

There is still a lot of Summer left to enjoy! Add fresh color to give containers a new lease on life, give some extra love to vegetable beds by replanting blank areas with Fall veggies, and don't forget to provide large trees and spring-flowering shrubs with a nice, long drink of water.

- Plant Fall veggies in faded beds: Cauliflower, Broccoli, Brussels sprouts, Kale, Spinach, Turnips, and Parsnips.
- Add mid-summer planting of Peas for Fall harvest.
- Monitor Potatoes and Tomatoes for blight; remove affected foliage/fruits, and sterilize pruning shears.
- Prune Raspberries and other Cane Berries after harvest; remove the oldest canes entirely.



FOR THE LAWN

- Begin soil prep now to establish new lawn when temps cool down (optimal time is August through mid-October):
 - » Test pH and add **lime** if needed
 - » Kill existing weeds
 - » Measure square footage to know how much compost, fertilizer, and lawn seed to buy
 - » Add early layer of mulch or soil builder to blank areas
- Prepare lawn renovation supplies for Fall rain:
 - » **Super Sweet Lime**
 - » **G&B Soil Building Conditioner**
 - » **G&B Lawn Fertilizer**
 - » **Lawn seed** (over-seed at rate of 3.5–5 lbs per 1000 sq ft; seed bare ground with 7–10 lbs per 1000 sq ft)



INDOOR GARDENING

- Provide air circulation and increase humidity (misting) to houseplants to make up for dry air.
- Continue to fertilize and monitor for pests—wipe leaves regularly for prevention.
- Evaluate repotting needs: Plan to repot before growth slows down in Fall/Winter; refresh soil in all indoor plants (replace top layer with worm castings and fresh soil).



JUST FOR FUN

- Sit out and enjoy your garden! Read a book or watch and listen to the birds and bees to decompress.
- Pick and eat a homegrown feast. Invite friends over for a garden-to-table dinner; ask them to bring a dish too!
- Gather friends for craft time. Plant sedums/succulents to create a succulent dish garden for your patio table.