

Horticulture Tips

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Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service
Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources
Oklahoma State University

GARDEN TIPS FOR AUGUST!

David Hillock

Vegetables

- August is a good month to start your fall vegetable garden. Bush beans, cucumbers, and summer squash can be replanted for another crop. Beets, broccoli, carrots, potatoes, lettuce and other cool-season crops can also be planted at this time. (F-6009).
- Soak vegetable seed overnight prior to planting. Once planted, cover them with compost to avoid soil crusting. Mulch to keep planting bed moist and provide shade during initial establishment. Monitor and control insect pests that prevent a good start of plants in your fall garden.

Fruit and Nut

- Continue protective insect applications on the fruit orchard. A good spray schedule is often abandoned too early. Follow directions on last application prior to harvest. (F-7319)

Flowers

- Towards the end of the month, divide and replant spring-blooming perennials like iris, peonies and daylilies if needed.

General

- Water compost during extremely dry periods so that it remains active. Turn the pile to generate heat throughout for proper sterilization.
- Always follow directions on both synthetic and natural pesticide products.
- Watch for high populations of worms, aphids, spider mites, thrips, scales and other insects on plant material in the garden and landscape and treat as needed. (F-7306)
- Water all plants thoroughly unless rainfall has been adequate. It is better to water more in depth, less often and early in the morning.

Trees and Shrubs

- Discontinue deadheading roses by mid-August to help initiate winter hardiness.
- Watch for 2nd generation of fall webworms in late August/early September. Remove webs that enclose branches and destroy; or spray with good penetration with an appropriate insecticide.

Lawn and Turf

- Grassy winter weeds like *Poa annua*, better known as annual bluegrass, can be prevented with a preemergence herbicide application in late August. Water in the product after application. (F-6420)

- Areas of turf with large brown spots should be checked for high numbers of grubs. Mid-to-late August is the best time to control heavy white grub infestations in the lawn. Apply appropriate insecticide if white grubs are a problem. Water product into soil. (F-7306)
- Tall fescue should be mowed at 3 inches during the hot summer and up to 3 ½ inches if it grows under heavier shade. (F-6420)
- For areas being converted to tall fescue this fall, begin spraying out bermudagrass with a product containing glyphosate in early August. (F-6419 & F-6421)
- Irrigated lawns can be fertilized once again. If you have had a problem with spring dead spot in your bermuda lawn, this should be your last application of fertilizer for the year.
- Brown patch of cool-season grasses can be a problem. (F-6420)

Fall Planting Guide

Table 1. Tender Vegetables - (harvest before frost).* Many varieties will do well – select varieties that are early maturing and disease resistant.

Kind	Time to plant	Method of Planting	Between Rows (inches)	In the Row (inches)	Depth to Cover Seed (inches)	Days from planting to Harvest
Beans, Bush	Aug. 10-20	Seed	18-24	3-6	1	50-60
Beans, Cowpea	July 15 – Aug. 1	Seed	18-48	6-12	1.5	75
Beans, Pole	July 15-30	Seed	24-36	12-18	1	60-70
Beans, Lima	Aug 10-20	Seed	18-24	4-8	1	70-80
Cilantro	July 15–Aug 1	Seed	9	4	.5	When plant is 4-6 in. tall
Corn, Sweet ³	July 15	Seed	36	12-18	1	80-100
Cucumber	Aug 10-20	Seed or Plants ²	36-32	12-30	.5 to .75	60-70
Eggplant	July 15	Plants	36	18	-	80-90
Pepper	July 15	Plants	36	24	-	90-110
Pumpkin	July 15-30	Seed or Plants ²	36-60	30-48	1	100-120
Summer Squash	July 15- Sept. 1	Seed or Plants ²	36	24-36	1	40-50
Winter Squash	July 15-30	Seed or Plants ²	36-48	30-48	1	100-120
Tomatillo	July 15	Plants	48	24-36	-	90-100
Tomato	July 1–15	Plants	48	24-36	-	70-90

1 = There may be advantages to planting earlier if soil moisture and climatic conditions are favorable

2 = Set plants into the garden 1 to 1 1/2 months after planting the seed.

3 = Be vigilant about scouting for fall armyworms in whorl of seedlings and young plants.

* Unless using a cold frame or row covers to extend the season.

Table 2. Semi-hardy vegetables - (may continue to grow and be harvested after several frosts). Many varieties will do well – select varieties that are early maturing and disease resistant.

Kind	Time to plant	Method of Planting	Between Rows (inches)	In the Row (inches)	Depth to Cover Seed (inches)	Days from planting to Harvest
Beet	Aug 1-15	Seed	12-18	3-4	.5-.75	60-70
Broccoli	July 15- Aug 15	Plants	18-30	16-20	-	70-80
Brussel Sprouts	July 15- Aug 15	Plants	18-30	16-20	-	90-100
Cabbage	Aug 1-25	Plants	18-24	16-20	-	75-90
Chinese Cabbage	Aug 1-25	Seed or Plants ¹	12-16	10-18	.5	75-90
Carrots	July 15- Aug 15	Seed	12-18	1-2	.25	70-80
Cauliflower	Aug 1-25	Plants	18-24	16-20	-	70-80
Collards	Aug 1- Sept 1	Seed or Plants ¹	30-36	18-24	.5	75-85
Garlic	Sept 1-Oct. 15	Bulbs (cloves)	12	4	2	Early June the following year
Irish Potato	Aug 1-15	Seed potatoes	30-42	10-16	2	90-110
Kale	Sept. 1	Plants	24-36	18	-	50-65
Kohlrabi	Sept. 1	Plants	18-24	4-6	-	50-70
Leaf Lettuce	Aug 1-15	Seed or Plants ¹	12-18	2-3	.25	60-70
Leek	Sept. 1	Seed or Plants ¹	12-24	2-4	.5	Late spring the following year
Mustard	Sept. 10- Oct 10	Seed	12-18	2-3	.5	40-50
Onions	Sept. 1	Seed, Sets, or Plants ¹	12-18	4	.25	Late spring the following year
Parsnip	July 15-Aug 15	Seed or Plants ¹	12-18	4-6	.25	120
Peas, green	Aug 15-Sept. 1	Seed	36	2	2	60-90
Radish	Aug 15- Oct 10	Seed	8-12	.75-1	.5	20-40
Rutabaga	Aug 15- Sept 15	Seed	24-36	3-4	.5	80-90
Spinach	Sept 5-25	Seed	8-12	1-2	.5	50-60
Swiss Chard	Aug 1- Sept 15	Seed	24-30	2-3	.5	50-60
Turnip	Aug 1- Sept 15	Seed	12-24	2-3	.5	50-60

¹ = Set plants into the garden 1 to 1 1/2 months after planting the seed.

Note: If planting or sowing into cold frames, plant two weeks later than date indicated. With our abundant winter sunshine, be sure to allow for ventilation. Also, check frequently for pests – especially aphids.

Recommended reading: "The New Organic Grower's Four-Season Harvest" by Eliot Coleman, Chelsea Green Publishers.

Organic Production Specialist Hired At Lane

Jim Shrefler

The Wes Watkins Agricultural Research and Extension Center has recently added Dr. William Kazokas as a post-doctoral fellow to assist in organic production and marketing research and extension. Dr. Kazokas earned his Ph.D. and M.S. at the University of Florida. His dissertation focused on pollination and fruit development in southern highbush blueberry. He is an alumnus of Oklahoma State University where he received his B.S. in horticulture in 1984. Dr. Kazokas brings to the Center over ten years of industry experience developing and managing organic horticulture operations in Florida, Mexico and Australia. He is an accredited organic farm and process inspector and co-hosts a weekly radio program on organic gardening. *"I see tremendous potential in the state for integrated organic farming enterprises supplying local and regional markets. The demand for organics is strong. Producers simply need assistance developing their unique production strategies and marketing programs. I am pleased to have been invited to assist in building a nationally-recognized organic research program at Lane."* Dr. Kazokas welcomes collaboration with research, teaching and extension personnel and industry partners. He can be reached at WWAREC 580-889-7343 or william.kazokas@okstate.edu.

Weevils

Becky Carroll

Weevil traps should be placed in the orchard during August. The Circle trap is the preferred trap for monitoring weevil emergence. Fact Sheet #7190 Monitoring Adult Weevil Populations in Pecan and Fruit Trees in Oklahoma explains how to construct and when and where to place the traps.

Pecan Crop Loads

Becky Carroll

Pecan growers with improved varieties should be checking crop loads to determine if they need to mechanically thin their pecans. On large fruited pecans such as Mohawk and Maramec, only about 50% of the terminals should have clusters. On smaller varieties, 60-70% of terminals can be fruiting. If more terminals are fruiting than recommended, the pecans should be thinned. Crop load thinning is usually done the first part of August or when the pecans are in the water stage when the ovule has expanded between 50-100%. Just as peaches and apples are thinned, pecans will greatly benefit from crop load management. Thinning the fruit will increase fruit quality, help reduce alternate bearing, as well as reduce the possibility for winter freeze damage. Pecans can be mechanically thinned with a conventional shaker fitted with donut pads. Be sure to keep the underneath of the flaps on the donut pads greased to help limit barking the trees. Fact Sheet #6251 Pecan Crop Load Management details the procedure.

Watermelon Disease Control Online Demonstration, Lane, Oklahoma, 2005

Jim Shrefler

A watermelon foliar disease control demonstration was just initiated at Lane, Oklahoma. The objective of this project is to demonstrate decision making options that can be used for controlling foliar diseases in watermelon. The demonstration will include two different fungicide treatments and two different methods that can be used to decide when to apply fungicides.

Fungicides:

1. A mixture of Dithane 75DF applied at 2 lbs. per acre and Topsin 70 WP applied at ½ lb. per acre.
2. Bravo Weatherstick applied at 1½ pints per acre.

Application Decision Methods:

1. Apply on a calendar schedule. Since diseases have already been observed in other fields in the area we chose a weekly schedule.
2. Apply based on the Mesonet Anthracnose Forecaster Model.

For both methods an initial fungicide application was made when plants began to produce male flowers. That day was July 24.

What is meant by **online demonstration**? To appreciate a demonstration of foliar disease management it is important to observe the crop over a period of time. Looking at just a final report does not provide much insight into the progress of a disease infestation and the benefits of fungicide use to protect crop plants. Demonstration implies that there is something to be observed of educational value. With a field demonstration it is not practical for people to travel to a field site each week to view the crop. However, the Internet provides an easy means of making the results available to a wide audience as the demonstration progresses. Information such as fungicide application dates and observation of disease symptoms will be posted on the web as these occur. To view the demonstration go to www.lane-ag.org After entering the site select "Melon Pest Manager", then "Pest Activity" and finally "Watermelon Disease Control Demonstration". If you would like to be prompted by email when changes are made to the online demonstration web site, select "Send Comments and Questions" and send a message to that effect. Additional comments and questions on this educational approach would also be appreciated!

Plant Profile – Japanese Anemone

David Hillock

Japanese Anemones (*Anemone x hybrida*) are well known for their durable and beautiful foliage and late summer to early fall blooms. Most of the Japanese Anemones found in gardens today, often listed as *A. japonica*, are hybrids and belong in this classification.

I was first introduced to this species while working in Salt Lake City many years ago. There they grew happily among ground covers such as English ivy and vinca under a canopy of large, mature American elms. I wasn't sure of their ability to withstand the heat of the south until I ran into some growing at the Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa a few years ago. They seemed to be quite happy even though they were placed in more sun than I would have expected. Generally, Japanese Anemones prefer morning sun and or partial shade, at least protection from the late, hot afternoon sun.

Japanese Anemones prefer a deep, moist, fertile soil. They will tolerate some dryness but may scorch under extremely dry conditions. To keep them looking their best, moderate to consistent moisture is needed. I would guess that they would do just fine even in western Oklahoma given they were located in an area that was protected from the dry winds, hot afternoon sun and had adequate moisture.

The leaves of Japanese Anemone are trifoliate with each leaflet usually having three lobes and serrated edges. The foliage develops into a large mound of dark green foliage that is generally clean and pest free. Above the foliage rises branching stems that end in 2-3" lovely flowers. Flowers are white or shades of pink and can be single, semi-double, and double and are excellent as cut flowers. Several cultivars exist ranging from 2' to 5' tall.

I guess one of the reasons I really like this plant is because it blooms late in the year when many other plants are thinking about giving up. The beautiful, clean, dark green foliage providing a wonderful background for the pink or white flowers in a shady area creates a feeling of continuation or maybe a sense of rebirth. Spring flowers do that for us in the spring after a long dull winter, but Japanese Anemone provides a similar effect after a long hot summer. So, if you get a chance and happen to run into a Japanese Anemone in the garden center, take it home and enjoy its late summer beauty.

Growing Fall Irish Potatoes

David Hillock

If seed potatoes are available and space permits, potatoes are a desirable supplement to the fall and winter food supply. Yields are usually lower than from spring-planted potatoes, but proper storage is much easier to provide and potato quality is excellent.

The practice of using potatoes from the fresh produce counter for planting purposes is not recommended. This kind of material frequently does not produce adequate growth and is considerably lower in yield.

One of the problems is getting a stand of plants early enough to produce a crop before fall frosts. This emphasizes the need to use matured, medium-to-large potatoes that require cutting into 1 or 1 1/2 ounce size seed pieces.

Cut potatoes should be allowed to cure three to five days before planting, and they should be stored under cool (45° to 65°F) conditions during curing. The best time to plant seed pieces is around August 1 through August 15.

In order to have a more favorable (cooler) soil at planting time, deep furrows may be opened in the late afternoon, seed pieces planted, covered with two inches of soil, watered, and mulched with straw or other available organic material. This should provide more favorable conditions for growth. Space potato pieces 30 to 42 inches between rows and 10 to 16 inches within rows. Days to harvest will be between 90 to 110 days depending on variety.

Bugscaping?!

David Hillock

I have heard of butterfly gardening, wildscaping and even birdscaping, concepts that are designed to attract certain critters to the garden, but I never really thought about developing a garden specifically in mind to attract or provide a haven for beneficial insects – hence "bugscaping." I have always known as a horticulturist that it is important to achieve a balance in the garden that will allow the good guys (beneficial insects) to help control the bad guys, but I never really thought about dedicating a flower bed or even the whole landscape to these little critters.

Of course I am talking about such insects and other related critters such as syrphid or hover flies, tachinid flies, solitary wasps, lacewings and even spiders to name a few. Often times these little guys go unnoticed, visiting plant after plant looking for other insects to eat. This of course is referred to as biological control; and while these beneficial insects can even be purchased through mail order companies, there are probably plenty right in your own backyard.

The concept of attracting and keeping beneficial insects to the garden is an area of gaining interest. A fairly recent study by Drs. Al-Doghairi and Cranshaw showed how frequently and to which plants beneficial insects visited in gardens in Colorado and Wyoming. In Canada, a new fifteen-year study is underway – *Landscape Plants for Conservation Biological Control*.

The work done in Colorado/Wyoming identified several plants that were frequently visited by beneficial insects, including many species or cultivars in the daisy (*Asteraceae*), dill (*Apiaceae*), mustard (*Brassicaceae*) and mint (*Lamiaceae*) families. These families, of course, include many common landscape and garden plants like yarrows, golden marguerite daisies, goldenrods, bugleweed, bergamot, dill, fennel and coriander to name a few. The one thing most of the plants have in common that seems to be of interest to the insect is a flower that is relatively shallow with exposed nectaries. Plants that are less attractive to beneficial insects are those highly hybridized for such things as large, lavish flowers.

So next time you go to buy a plant for the garden consider one that might be good for the bugscape; when you feel the urge to reach for the insecticides to control a pesky insect, look around for the good guys and give them a little more time to do what they do best – eating those pesky insects.

For more information about using biologicals or bugscaping see the following articles or fact sheets: Bryan, Nora. *Insectary Flowers – Feeding the Air Force*. the Gardener for the Prairies, Summer 2005; Al-Doghairi, M.A., and W.S. Cranshaw. *Surveys on visitation of flowering plants by common biological control agents in Colorado*. J. Kansas Entomological Society, 1999; OSU Fact Sheet F-7307 Beneficial Insects; and OSU Fact Sheet F-6434 Earth-Kind Gardening: Biological Pest Controls.

<i>Insectary Plants for the Garden¹</i>	
Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Achillea filipendulina</i>	Common yarrow
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Fern-leaf yarrow
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Carpet bugleweed
<i>Anethum graveolens</i>	Dill
<i>Anthemis tinctoria</i>	Marguerite daisy
<i>Aurinia saxatilis</i>	Basket-of-gold alyssum
<i>Coriandrum sativum</i>	Coriander
<i>Crocus</i> spp.	Spring crocus
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel
<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i>	English lavender
<i>Limonium latifolium</i>	Sea lavender
<i>Lobularia maritima</i>	Sweet alyssum
<i>Sedum</i> spp.	Stonecrops (several)
<i>Solidago</i>	goldenrod

¹ from Nora Bryan and Al-Doghairi and Cranshaw observations.

Upcoming Horticulture Events

Greenhouse IPM Workshop

August 11, 2005, OSU, Stillwater

This workshop is free of charge to any individual with an interest in greenhouse IPM. Keynote Speaker: James Quinn, University of Missouri, Columbia. Seating may be limited so please RSVP by August 8 to Stephanie Larimer at stephanie.larimer@okstate.edu or 405-744-5404.

Ornamental Plant Materials Conference

September 21-22, 2005, Holiday, Inn, Stillwater

Keynote Speaker: Tom Buchter, Holden Arboretum, Kirtland, Ohio.

Nursery, Landscape and Greenhouse Trade Show and Convention

September 30-October 1, 2005, Tulsa Convention Center

Contact Wendy Gerdes – Oklahoma ONLAOGGA@aol.com

Greenhouse Growers' Fall Update

October 26, 2005, Holiday Inn, Stillwater

Contact Mike Schnelle at mike.schnelle@okstate.edu or 405-744-7361

Tree Care Issues Conference

November 9, 2005, OSU Botanical Garden, Stillwater

60th Annual Oklahoma Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show

November 16-18, 2005, Wes Watkins Center for International Trade Development, Stillwater

"Stillwater, Where Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Turfgrass Conference began." The conference and show will provide a broad array of educational presentations. Education is being planned for the sports turf, landscape, lawncare, sod production and golf course management industries. Pesticide Applicator CEUs will also be available. Unlike previous years, participants will choose from one of several designated hotels. Early booking of rooms will be required of attendees since the various sporting events in Stillwater results in competition for lodging. More information on the conference will be available shortly.

6th Annual Oklahoma/Arkansas Turf Short Course

January 11-12, 2006, OSU Botanical Garden, Stillwater

The event is an introductory short course that targets those practitioners in the landscape and lawncare industries who have not had the opportunity to take an introductory turf course. However some attendees are those who are new to the AR/OK region or those simply wanting to brush up on regional turf recommendations. The course covers turf identification, selection, establishment and the maintenance practices common to the region. The focus of the short course is on the "why" behind the "how" turf is managed in the region. More information on the conference will be available in October.

For more information about upcoming events, please contact Stephanie Larimer at 405-744-5404 or stephanie.larimer@okstate.edu.