

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. ([HLA-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. ([EPP-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. ([EPP-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 webworm 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. ([EPP-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- Aug15	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.

'Natchez' – A New Thornless Blackberry

Eric T. Stafne

Dr. John R. Clark, fruit breeder from the University of Arkansas, has recently released a new thornless blackberry cultivar. It will be well-adapted to Oklahoma conditions. The availability of this cultivar is unknown, but likely won't be ready for purchase until next year. Here are some of the pertinent traits associated with 'Natchez'. It ripens early, near that of 'Arapaho' and occasionally 2-3 days earlier. First ripe date on average is June 3, compared to 'Ouachita' which is June 10 and 'Apache' around June 19. It is intended that 'Natchez' be used as a replacement for 'Arapaho' for the early season. Recorded yields for 'Natchez' have been twice that of 'Arapaho' in research plantings. Yields are usually comparable to 'Ouachita' and 'Apache'. 'Natchez' berries are large, on average 8 to 9 g, often comparable in size to 'Apache' and larger than 'Arapaho', 'Ouachita', and 'Navaho'. Berry size remains large for the fruiting season. The fruit quality of 'Natchez' is good, rated comparable to 'Arapaho' in flavor but slightly lower than 'Apache', 'Navaho', and 'Ouachita'. Soluble solids averages were about 9.5% in most measurements, slightly lower than 'Ouachita' and 'Navaho'. White drupelets are seldom seen on 'Natchez', which is a concern with 'Apache'. The post-harvest handling potential of 'Natchez' is very good, with performance usually exceeding 'Arapaho' and comparable to the other thornless Arkansas cultivars. Fruit firmness was rated slightly lower for 'Natchez' compared to other Arkansas thornless, but storage performance did not show firmness concerns, and had low leak and reddening ratings after one week of refrigerated storage. 'Natchez' is recommended for planting and for shipping. 'Natchez' has erect to semi-erect, thornless canes. The canes are not as erect as 'Ouachita' or 'Apache'. Although 'Natchez' can be grown in a hedgerow, it is recommended that support wires on either side of the cane row be utilized to maintain an upright canopy as is common in commercial culture. No substantial common diseases have been observed on 'Natchez', with only slight anthracnose seen in one year of the observation period. No orange rust observed. Not screened fully for double blossom/rosette resistance although no evidence of this disease has been seen. It is assumed Natchez will have resistance to double blossom comparable to other Arkansas thornless. Double blossom/rosette is not a problem in most areas of Oklahoma with only the far SE corner of the state being in the area of potential susceptibility. The winter hardiness has not been well evaluated due to moderate winter temperatures in recent years. It did however withstand lows of 7°F at Clarksville, Arkansas with no damage. The chilling requirement for 'Natchez' has not been measured but has had good budbreak with 500-600 hours. It is anticipated to have similar chilling requirement of 'Arapaho' of 400-500 hours or possibly lower. Oklahoma regularly receives roughly 1400 hours of chilling per year, so reaching that requirement is not a problem here. 'Natchez' will likely be patented, so propagation and distribution of this cultivar will not be legally possible without a license.

Diplodia Tip Blight of Pine

David Hillock

Symptoms: Dieback of the branches of older pine trees is common. Growth from these blighted terminals is usually stunted, the needles turn brown, and the terminal buds exude an excessive amount of resin. Diplodia can also infect the cones of these older pines and the minute black fruiting bodies can easily be seen on the scales of the cones.

This disease can be easily confused with [Pine Tip Moth](#) injury. One of the differences between these two problems is that with Diplodia Tip Blight the dead portion of the plant is soaked with sap or has sap on the outside; Pine Tip Moth damage does not.

Control: Management of this disease is best done in the spring. However, it may be necessary to apply a fungicide in the fall to aid in slowing the spread of the disease. Diplodia Tip Blight in older trees can be controlled by pruning and sanitation. As soon as blighted terminals and cones are noticed, the needles, twigs and cones should be pruned to healthy tissue and destroyed. Do not prune when the branches are wet because the conidia of the fungus can easily be spread when moisture is present. Infected leaves and cones that have fallen to the ground should be collected and destroyed or disposed of properly. Where infection has been severe the use of Bordeaux mixture or Copper Fungicide 4E will control this disease. It should be applied early in the spring, when the buds open, and twice more at weekly intervals until the needles break through the needle sheaths. An application of fungicide in the fall may also help; however, fertilization and watering in the fall may be more beneficial. Homeowners who maintain vigorous trees through good tree health care will have fewer problems with Diplodia Tip Blight.

Shumard Oak

David Hillock

(*Quercus shumardii*) is 50-75 feet at maturity with shiny dark green foliage, and it is a pest free plant. It is not as susceptible to chlorosis (yellowing) as Pin Oak. It has a reddish-yellow fall color and medium in its growth rate. It is hardy throughout Oklahoma (zone 5 to 9).

Cut Flowers

David Hillock

Bringing the outdoors in is a common trend today and is easily achieved by cutting flowers from your own garden and placing them around the home to enjoy.

Below are a few of the more commonly grown species for use in arrangements and bouquets that are equally attractive in the flower garden.

Perennials (Species marked with an asterisk need to be lifted each fall, stored over winter and replanted the following spring.)

Ageratum, Hardy (*Eupatorium coelestinum*)

Astilbe (*Astilbe x arendsii*)

Buby's breath (*Gypsophila paniculata*)

Bachelor's buttons (*Centaurea montana* 'Mountain Bluet')

Bee balm (*Monarda didyma*)

Blackberry lily (*Belamcanda chinensis*)

Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta* var. *pulcherrima*)

Bleeding heart (*Dicentra eximia*) (*Dicentra spectabilis*)
Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)
*Calla lily (*Zantedeschia aethiopica*)
*Canna (*Canna x generalis*)
Clematis, Jackman (*Clematis x jackmanii*)
Columbine (*Aquilegia* hybrids)
Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)
Coralbells (*Heuchera sanguinea*)
Coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*)
Dahlia (*Dahlia* hybrids)
Daisy, Painted (*Chrysanthemum coccineum*)
Daisy, Shasta (*Chrysanthemum x superbum*)
Fountain grass (*Pennisetum alopecuroides*)
Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*)
Gaillardia (*Gaillardia x grandiflora*)
Gayfeather (*Liatris* spp.)
*Gladiolus (*Gladiolus x hortulanus*)
Hollyhock (*Alcea rosea*)
Iris, Bearded (*Iris* hybrids)
Iris, Japanese (*Iris ensata*)
Larkspur (*Delphinium elatum*)
Lily, Garden (*Lilium* hybrids)
Lily of the valley (*Convallaria majalis*)
Maltese cross (*Lychnis chalconica*)
Narcissus (daffodils) (*Narcissus* hybrids)
Peony (*Paeonia* hybrids)
Peony, Tree (*Paeonia suffruticosa*)
Phlox, Tall (*Phlox paniculata*)
Pincushion Flower (*Scabiosa caucasica*)
Poppy, Iceland (*Papaver nudicaule*)
Poppy, Oriental (*Papaver orientale*)
Sage, Mealycup (*Salvia farinacea*)
Salvia, Perennial (*Salvia superba*)
Statice (*Limonium latifolium*)
Sunflower, False (*Heliopsis helianthoides* var. *scabra*)
Tulip (*Tulipa* hybrid)
Yarrow, Fernleaf (*Achillea filipendulina*)
Yarrow, Common (*Achillea millefolium*)
Yarrow, Woolly (*Achillea tomentosum*)

Annuals

African daisy (*Dimorphotheca sinuata*)
Baby's-breath (*Gypsophila elegans*)
Bells of Ireland (*Molucella laevis*)
Celosia [*Celosia cristata* (Plumosa Group)]
Cleome (*Cleome hasslerana*)

Cornflower (*Centaurea cyanus*)
Cosmos (*Cosmos bipinnatus* and *C. sulphureus*)
Fountain grass (*Pennisetum setaceum*)
Gerbera daisy (*Gerbera jamesonii*)
Globe amaranth (*Gomphrena globosa*)
Marigold, African (*Tagetes erecta*)
Nasturtium (*Tropaeolum majus*)
Pincushion flower (*Scabiosa atropurpurea*)
Salvia (*Salvia splendens*)
Snapdragon (*Antirrhinum majus*)
Statice, Florist's (*Limonium sinuatum*)
Strawflower (*Helichrysum bracteatum*)
Sunflower, Mexican (*Tithonia rotundifolia*)
Tobacco, flowering (*Nicotiana glauca*)
Zinnia (*Zinnia elegans*)

Upcoming Horticulture Events

Native American Horticulture Conference

August 21, 2007, Stillwater

For more information, please visit the following web site:

[http://home.okstate.edu/tools/webtools.nsf/Images/hortworkshops/\\$FILE/2007native.pdf](http://home.okstate.edu/tools/webtools.nsf/Images/hortworkshops/$FILE/2007native.pdf)

Integrated Pest Management Conference

August 29, 2007, Stillwater

For more information, please visit the following web site:

[http://home.okstate.edu/tools/webtools.nsf/Images/hortworkshops/\\$FILE/2007ipm.pdf](http://home.okstate.edu/tools/webtools.nsf/Images/hortworkshops/$FILE/2007ipm.pdf)

OSU Turfgrass, Nursery and Landscape Field Day

September 12, 2007, OSU Botanical Garden, Stillwater

Plant Materials Conference

October 9-10, 2007, Stillwater

This workshop will feature speakers lecturing on both herbaceous and woody ornamental species. Both native and non-native plant materials will be presented. For more information, contact Mike Schnelle at 405-744-7361 or mike.schnelle@okstate.edu.

Tree Care Workshop

November 7, 2007, OSU Botanical Garden, Stillwater

University personnel at OSU-Stillwater will host a tree care workshop designed for arborists, horticulturalists, urban foresters and other allied professionals. The workshop will be taught primarily indoors with afternoon laboratories offered at the OSU Botanical Garden. For more information, contact Mike Schnelle at 405-744-7361 or mike.schnelle@okstate.edu.

62nd Annual Oklahoma Turf Conference & Trade Show
November 13-15, 2007, Watkins Center, OSU-Stillwater

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