

## The Garden in Aug ....To Do List

- Continue to deadhead roses , blooming will lessen and do not fertilize again although the roses could bloom for some time
- Most fruits and veggies are ready to harvest , if not already done so. You can plan for fall winter planting of late veggies .... Radish, kohlrabi , turnip, cabbage, chard, winter spinach and kale, broccoli and garlic are some to consider
- Herbs can be picked, bundled and hung to dry.....pick when the weather is warm and the plants are not wet from dew or water. Picking will also encourage new growth .
- Old fruited canes of raspberries and other such fruits can have the old and weak canes cut out and the stronger new canes tied in. Black Currants can be pruned to the ground or remove most of the fruited stems . Red Currants and Gooseberries can be pruned to just above the 5<sup>th</sup> leaf stem from the base.
- Cut back Lavender plants to remove flowering stems and give a light shearing (remember to “stay in the green”,new growth will not come from the woody stems) Lavender flowers can be dried in bunches or removed from the stem and used in sachets.
- Trim hedges of evergreen type plants and reshape and tidy topiary plantings.
- Planning a new lawn? Now is the time to prepare. Dethatch and aerate mature lawns
- Take softwood cuttings of plants to pot up and place in cold frames. (zonal geraniums are easy to do! )
- Deadhead, tidy and cutback annual plantings...give a shot of fertilizer to encourage a late season bloom.
- Tidy perennials, deal with any late season pests, clear garden beds of debris and consider labeling planting spots (labeling helps when our memory can't)
- Decide if plants need splitting .....plant divisions in other parts of the garden or share with friends (donating extras to the garden club plant sale is a fabulous idea!) do not do this yet ,but now is the time to choose which ones to split.
- You may not want to, but think about fall / winter planting ....lots of choice to have lovely pots through the fall to Christmas. ...pansies, ornamental kale , hardy grasses, decorative twigs , evergreens, heathers .....
- Prune and tie in vigorous vines like Wisteria while the new growth is pliable. ( prune again in winter)
- Cordoned fruit trees can be lightly pruned ( to the 5<sup>th</sup> leaf )
- Weed , water (early morning) and continue to tidy the edges of your beds, it makes the garden look so much neater. Trim away grass from paving stones.

- It's been very dry this year , some plants will have suffered and the heat wave of a few weeks ago did not help either. Sunburned plants and scorched leaves can be cut back and hope they will revive others may be lost.
- The care of gardens needs flexibility now and you have to go with the weather more than ever. The weather patterns are changing and gardening has new challenges. We will have to learn as we go.