

What to do in your garden



August is a great time of the year. Fuchsias blooming beautifully, the Crocosmia, Grasses, Echinacea and Rudbeckias are all standing tall. When they have finished, all can still stay in situ until the Spring next year. They not only add extra interest, but also feed the birds, set seed and flower elsewhere if you are lucky. Stop deadheading your roses, hips may appear. Serious pruning happens in the autumn to prevent wind rock, but if hips are around this can be delayed if suitable.

The Trachelospermum (evergreen Jasmine) should still be giving you its lovely scent with its second flush, a great climber that can tolerate some shade. Flowering at this time, Phlox if you have them, are great for a vase, as well as Dahlias and globe thistle – Echinops (E. 'Platinum Blue' isn't too big for a mid-border, 60cms) and Salvias for a great display into the late summer. Continue to feed summer bedding, with a high nitrogen for a short-term feed (Tomorite). If you are feeling generous, get some chicken pellets or Osmocote and give the borders a last feed of the year.

Look at your garden regularly and make notes. If two

geraniums are together, when they get cut down in May or June, there is a bigger bald spot. Replace one with a Penstemon, Aster or a Fuchsia, which will give you longer/continued flowering in that particular area.

Hanging baskets and pots still need that weekly or twice weekly feed and regular watering. They can dry up very quickly, sometimes in just a day, especially now their roots are overtaking the soil. Hedges can continue to be cut.

Lawns. Continue to cut but when seriously hot only take the tips off, if you really need to. Edge to neaten and if rains are due, spike or throw a fork into the lawn so when the rains arrive, it stays and gets to the roots. Regular raking helps the grass in many ways, dispersing worm casts/ant hills, removing thatch and lifting the grass blades before cutting allows you to cut the lawn properly. For a healthy lawn, upright grass blades are what you are aiming for, but please use a plastic rake, not a metal one, they are too aggressive but are great for after a weed and feed. Next month autumn weed and feed!



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