

What to do in your garden

In July with the summer heat, the garden almost slows down. Why not kick back in the warm summer sun, and enjoy the fruits of your hard work? July and August are the months when the garden is used the most, barbecues come out, children enjoying the holidays, although there is still work to be done to keep the garden looking good. Jobs to do include water, feed, water, feed and water, feed.

If the summer is warm, dry or even slightly windy, plants, especially recently planted, will dry out pretty quickly. A weekly drenching is better than daily drops of water. If you have slug problems, water first thing in the morning but make sure you water well, 20-25 per cent will evaporate. Don't forget your lawn will also appreciate being watered.

Feeding is essential, this could double the size of your plants (overall size, not flower size). Diluted Tomorite 2 - weekly is perfect. Weekly deadheading is good and feeding hanging baskets, pots, etc, at the same time will give you a great flush pretty soon. In the flower borders, a granular feed/

chicken pellets are ideal and will last longer (up to six weeks); you can do it again in early to mid-August for a late summer boost. Your Roses will have been in full bloom for the last month or so. For repeat flowering Roses only, continue to deadhead and another flush will arrive pretty soon and give them a feed. Stop pruning in September for Rose hips. Prune Mock Orange (Phileadelphus) and Deutzia after they have finished flowering to keep the shrub in good shape. Over this month, trim back those legging stems of your Wisteria, just to keep it into shape, leaving 5 – 6 leaf stems. The hard work is done in January when you can see the skeleton of the plant.

Shape Box (Buxus/Yew/Privet) and hedges from now onwards as birds are done for this year. Continue to tie in Climbers. Plants that will be in flower now, Daylilies (Hemerocallis), Alstroemerias, Heleniums, Penstemons and Crocosmia. As well as Sunflowers and Echinacea's (Coneflower). The list can go on and on.

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