

AUGUST GARDENING CHECKLIST



WATER—August heat necessitates daily watering for your outdoor containers and hanging baskets. Lawns need water too. Summer sun stresses turf grasses. Keep an eye on the weather and turn off your irrigation system when afternoon and evening showers are predicted.

VEGETABLES—It's time to plant fall vegetables. Set out plants of broccoli, cauliflower, and collards. Sow seeds of beets, lettuce, English peas, spinach, turnips, and mustard.

DIVIDE—Now is a good time to divide spring-blooming perennials iris and daylilies. Dig up crowded plants and plants with reduced blooms. Divide tubers and roots, and trim dead portions. Prepare new beds by amending soil with mushroom compost and sphagnum peat moss to a depth of 8 to 10 inches. An ideal time to divide plants is after a light rain when beds are moist, but not muddy.

SLUG IT OUT!—Control slugs by spraying them with a solution of 1/2 water and 1/2 vinegar.

CUT—Flowers early morning for fresh flower arrangements. Cut back spent blooms on perennials to encourage repeat blooming.

WEED—Avoid the highest temperatures by weeding early in the morning or late in the day. Set a limit of 15 minutes daily.

You'll be more likely to attend to this chore when you know you've only committed to minutes a day. Try weeding in a light rain when lighting is not present. Weeds are easier to remove when soil has been softened.

DEADHEAD—Pinch back those annuals to keep them compact and blooming into the fall.

