



Garden Tips for August

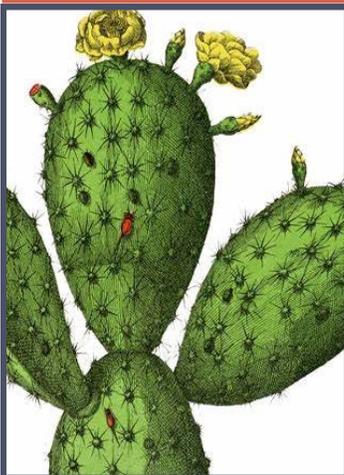
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Well, here it is....hot, dry summer. Its maintenance time to keep all those plants thriving and adequately watered. Here are a few August gardening tips:

- Heirloom and hybrid roses have stopped blooming in the hottest time of the summer but now is the time to prune back about 25% to generate new growth for blooms in the fall.
- If your water source contains large amounts of salts then now is a good time to dissolve and flush out your containers and plant beds by watering twice as long and deep. In dry conditions, salts will accumulate in the soil and cause poor performance.
- If you keep a garden journal, now is a good time to walk around your garden and check to see which flowers are blooming. Only the toughest can keep going this time of year.
- Take a look at the graph below to find which vegetables can be planted in our area now for a fall garden. Remember, most tomatoes take about 90 days to set fruit. Ninety days from August 1st is November 1st. The likelihood of frost in early November is slim but it has happened in the past.

Cacti are succulents but not all succulents are cacti



	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV
Bean, bush		8/15 - 9/15			
Bean, pole		8/10 - 9/10			
Corn, sweet	7/15 - 8/20				
Cucumber	7/20 - 8/15				
Garlic		8/10 - 10/20			
Chard, Swiss		8/20 - 11/15			
Mustard		8/20 - 11/15			
Turnip		8/20 - 11/20			
Peppers		8/1 - 9/15			
Potato, Irish		8/15 - 8/31			
Squash, summer	7/15 - 8/20				
Squash, winter	7/15 - 8/10				
Tomato		8/1 - 9/15			

Growing Succulents



Are you a beginner gardener or just looking for something easy to grow? Then look no further than the succulent. Succulents are one of the easiest plants to grow, will take neglect and poor soil conditions plus they come in a large variety of colors and shapes. This diversity and ease of care lend itself to the current decorating trend with succulents whether it is building a living wall, creating a living wreath for your front door or even a succulent ball to hang in a tree. The possibilities with these fun plants are enormous in addition to making great in-door additions to your home.

The succulent plant comes from the dry, arid regions of Africa. Approximately 60 different plant families contain succulents. The Latin word “sucus” means juice or sap, which refers to the succulent leaves which are thick and full of water. This ability to hold water in their leaves helps the plants survive during dry weather conditions. Another attractive quality of succulents is that they can easily be propagated from just a cutting.

Succulents like a lot of sunshine - at least 6 hours a day. However, during the hottest time of the summer where daily temperatures reach above 90 degrees, a little shade protection goes a long way. Morning sunlight with protection from the hot afternoon sun is recommended.

Overwatering will cause succulents to develop root rot and die. A good rule of thumb is to only water when you feel that the soil is dry an inch down or deeper. Thoroughly water and then let dry out completely between each watering. Make sure you have good soil drainage.

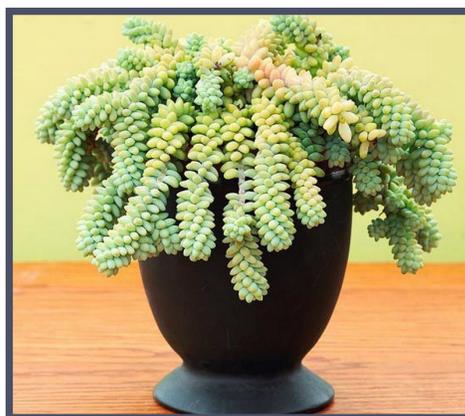
Succulents cannot take freezing weather conditions, but they can easily be dug up and moved indoors for the winter. There are also many available indoor planters and pots that are specially made to show off your succulent collection.

Best Succulents for Outdoors:



- Aeonium Rosettes
- Agave
- Aloe Vera
- Sedum

Best Succulents for Indoors:



- Burros Tail
- Hens and Chicks
- Jade Plant
- Snake Plant

Types of Succulents

Succulent Plant Guide



Aloe



Jade



Yucca



Echeveria-
Desert Rose



Snake Plant



ZZ Plant



Hens and
Chicks



Portulacaria
Afra



Wax Agave



Donkeys Tails



Lety's
Sedeveria



Mimicry Plant



Pencil Cactus



Indian Fig
Cactus



Candelabra
Cactus



String of
Pearls



Paddle



Green
Prince



String of
Bananas



Perle Von
Nurberg



Building an Insect Hotel



Parts of an Insect Tower



Bug Hotels



Insect Tower

One of the tenets of Earth-kind landscaping is to use less pesticides and promote a healthy and balanced ecosystem in your garden and yard. One way to promote a healthy environment is to encourage and increase beneficial insects like **Green Lacewings, Lady Bugs, Assassin Bugs, Solitary Native Bees** and **Parasitic Wasps**. You can do this by ordering more bugs and larva. Or, you can build a safe habitat for these insects. This can be a fun, family project that you can do with children to teach them more about insects and their habitats.

Insect hotels, as they are called, come in a variety of shapes and sizes. Their purpose in winter is to provide a place for insects to hibernate. This provides new insects at the start of spring ready to forage in your garden. In the summer an insect hotel is a nice dry nesting place away from harsh weather. The great beauty of building an insect hotel is that you can use whatever materials you have on hand and your imagination.

Finding the perfect hotel

location depends on what type of insect you want to attract. For instance, bees need plenty of sunlight while other insects need to be protected from rain or wet weather. It is a good idea to research which insects you want to attract and read up on their natural habitat before building your insect hotel.

Placing your insect hotel near a water source such as a pond will provide optimum availability to insects. Or putting an insect hotel in the midst of your flower garden will provide more availability for foraging.

Here are some guidelines on what materials to use and why. The top photograph is numbered for each section:

1. Straw and wood: this is good sheltering material for the lacewings whose larva feed on aphids, thripes and whiteflies.
2. Bamboo rods: these provide shelter for mason bees.
3. Flower pots filled with hay: attracts earwigs who eat on aphids.
4. Wooden boards where *xylophagous* insects (insects whose diet mostly consists of wood) are involved in dead wood.
5. Pierced logs: this makes a very good shelter for many pollinators like solitary bees or wasps whose larva feed on aphids.
6. Bundles of bramble or rose rods: Another attractant for bees, wasps and sawflies.
7. Bricks: again used by the mason bee which are solitary.
8. Small boards: they attract ladybugs during the winter. Their larva consume a lot of aphids.

Building an insect hotel is a great family project. They are easy to make and help your garden and the natural world. You can make your insect hotel with anything you have on hand. There's no right way or wrong way to make one. If you search the internet you will find hundreds of ideas on insect hotels.

August 2019

Schedule of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 ★
11	12	13 ★	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- Aug 10: Montgomery County Master Gardeners: “DIY: Composting & Enriching Soil”;** This presentation will identify the benefits of compost, outline the steps to creating compost, and explain ways to use compost to a garden and a lawn; 8:00 a.m. Start. 7:30 Registration. Fee: \$5; Thomas LeRoy Education Building, 9020 Airport Road, Conroe

- Aug 10: Montgomery County Master Gardeners: “Honing in on Your Fall Vegetable Bounty”;** Presentation includes proper time to plant and harvest, how to control diseases and insects, adequate soil moisture, crop rotation and recommended varieties for spring gardens in this area. 10:00 a.m. Fee: \$5; Thomas LeRoy Education Building, 9020 Airport Road, Conroe

- Aug 13: Grimes County Master Gardeners: “Monthly Business Meeting”;** 9:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.; Court Annex Building, Navasota

Have you thought about.....



Have you ever thought about becoming a Texas Master Naturalist? To become a Texas Master Naturalist, trainees must take a basic course that provides a background in all aspects of the natural history of Texas, with a concentration on the local area.

For 2019, the New Member Training for the Texas Master Naturalist Brazos Valley Chapter will take place **Tuesday evenings** from **3 September to 19 November 2019** from **6:00 to 9:00 pm**, with **five field experiences on Saturday mornings** from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Class Location: Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History in the Brazos Center, Bryan , Texas

Class Fee: \$160

For details, go to <https://txmn.org/brazos/welcome>

For questions about the class, please email the New Member Training Chair, **Bruce Neville** at education@txmnbv.org. For questions about registration, please email the Membership Chair, **Betty Vermeire** at membership@txmnbv.org.

Texas Master Gardeners

203 Veterans Memorial Drive
Navasota, Texas 77868

Website: txmg.org/grimes



Grimes County Master Gardeners

Please send submissions and photos by the
20th of each month to: pwparmley@gmail.com



Sedum Succulent

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