

Bluestem Breezes
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August Gardening Calendar

I am hoping that July was a productive month for you, both in terms of your produce load and the time spent working outdoors. I relished the cooler temperatures earlier in July, catching up on my to-do list items that were never crossed off in June.

And, although the summer heat is indeed upon us now, your garden, yard, and flowers still need that extra attention to continue their productive nature.

This week, I'm sharing another month of Johnson County Extension's Monthly Gardening Calendar. I know every item on the list won't apply to you, but adjust this list to fit your own yard and garden. Happy gardening!

Vegetables and Fruits

- Water about 1 inch per week
- Plant a fall garden, beets, carrots, beans, and turnips for autumn harvest
- Plant transplants of broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage for fall production
- Harvest crops on a regular basis for season long production
- Ease fruit loads on branches by propping with wooden supports
- Net ripening fruit to protect from hungry birds
- Fertilize strawberry bed for added flower bud development
- Turn compost pile and add water when dry

Flowers

- Apply 1 to 1 ½ inches of water per week to gardens
- Divide irises and daylilies during this dormant period
- Make last application of fertilizer to roses by mid-month
- Control black spot and other rose diseases
- Fertilize mums, hardy asters, and other fall blooming perennials
- Deadhead annuals to encourage late season blossoms
- Cut back and fertilize annuals to produce new growth and fall blooms
- Sow hollyhocks, poppies, and larkspur for spring blooms
- Prepare for fall bulb planting by making orders or researching varieties
- Take cuttings from geraniums and begonias for wintering indoors

Lawns

- Water bluegrass one to two times, per week, applying a total of about 1 ½ inches of water
- Water tall fescue one to two times, per week, applying a total of 1 inch of water
- Apply last application of fertilizer to zoysia by mid-month
- Be on the lookout for grubs and apply proper control methods
- Start planning for fall renovation projects such as aerating and seeding
- Check sharpness of mower blades and repair

- Mow turf as needed depending on summer growth
- Destroy unwanted zoysia and Bermuda grass
- Take a soil test to determine a fertility program

Trees and Shrubs

- Water young trees every 1 to 2 weeks by thoroughly soaking the root system
- Prune and shape hedges
- Check mulch layers and add if needed
- Prune broken, dead or crossing limbs for healthier plants
- Check young trees and shrubs for girdling wires, and ropes from planting
- Avoid fertilizing ornamentals now so they harden off before winter
- Hand remove bagworms

Houseplants

- Water houseplants regularly and fertilize to promote growth
- Check plants for insects such as scales, aphids, and spider mites
- Wash plants to remove dust layers
- Make cuttings and repot plants before summer sun slips away

For additional monthly gardening calendars, visit johnson.ksu.edu, or stop by the Extension Office (215 Kansas, Courthouse, Alma; kamayer@ksu.edu; 765-3821). For Bluestem Breezes archives, check out wabaunsee.ksu.edu.