

Ask an Expert – August Gardening Tips for Late Summer Splendor

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The heat is on, and yards and gardens are trying to survive the recent high temperatures. Consider these tips from the [USU Extension Gardeners Almanac](#) to help your garden succeed. Also included are links for further information.

- Consider planting [cover crops](#) to provide “green manure” to the garden.
- Collect and store [seeds from your garden](#).
- Learn about how and when to harvest [watermelon](#) and [cantaloupe](#).
- Harvest [potatoes](#) as soon as tubers begin forming.
- Harvest [garlic](#) and [onions](#) once the tops have dried down. Allow them to dry for 2-3 weeks before storing.
- Store potatoes, garlic, and onions in a cool/dry location (32-40°F) away from apples.
- [Plant trees](#) and shrubs as the weather becomes cooler.
- Go hiking in the hills to enjoy [autumn colors](#).
- Divide crowded, spring-blooming perennials.
- Consider [composting](#) fall leaves.
- Check pears for ripeness once the fruit twists off the tree easily and seeds are dark colored, then allow them to finish ripening off the tree.
- Apply a slow-release [lawn fertilizer](#) early in September to provide long-lasting results throughout the fall.

- Remember that as temperatures cool, turfgrass requires minimal irrigation each week. [See irrigation needs in your area](#).
- Plant [new lawns](#) or [repair](#) insect/diseased areas with grass seed, allowing 4-6 weeks for establishment before heavy frosts.
- Aerate compacted sites with a hollow core aerator when [turfgrass](#) is actively growing (September to October).

Pests and Problems:

- Control [raspberry crown borer](#) using a root drench during late summer or early fall.
- Learn about diseases and [problems in apples](#) and how to manage them.
- Control [rust mites](#) in apple and pear trees after harvesting fruit and before leaf drop.
- Watch for [boxelder bugs](#) congregating on sunny surfaces during the fall months.
- Monitor for damaging [turfgrass insects](#).
- Subscribe to the [Utah Pests IPM Advisories](#) for timely tips on controlling yard and garden pests.

Contact

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