

Central Virginia Master Gardeners  
August Garden Chores

*It is utterly forbidden to be half-hearted about gardening.  
You have got to love your garden whether you like it or not.  
~W.C. Sellar & R.J. Yeatman, Garden Rubbish, 1936*

Category	Description
Ornamental Garden	<p>August in central Virginia is hot, hot, hot , humid, humid, humid and dry! (That is until we get some relief from hurricanes that come up the coast).</p> <p>Keep your hummingbird feeders filled and replenish the water in your bird baths regularly.</p> <p>Deep water your lawns in the early morning during the dry season. Remember your lawns needs about an inch of water per week! And please do not water your gardens while the sun is shining. Water everything during the coolest part of the morning.</p> <p>Watch your plants for sudden changes. This is the time when insects and plant diseases attack heat-weakened plants.</p> <p>Avoid pruning shrubs and trees during the hot summer months. While it's the pits, you should continue weeding your gardens <b>IN THE EARLY MORNING</b>. If your perennials and annuals are growing poorly, cut them back by 1/3 to 1/2.</p> <p>It's ok to plant fall blooming bulbs now.</p> <p>Be sure to mow your lawn <b>BEFORE</b> crabgrass and other weeds start sending up their seed heads. Check lawns for disease and begin treatment, if necessary.</p>
Vegetable Garden	<p>Visit your garden daily and harvest as needed. Check for insects and other pests and treat accordingly.</p> <p>Keep the garden well-groomed. Remove spent leaves, weeds.</p> <p>Prune out canes of blackberries and most varieties of raspberries that produced fruit earlier in the year as they will not produce fruit again. There are some varieties of raspberries that shouldn't be pruned in the fall.</p>

