

# Wegman's Nursery August Garden Tips

**Fall is especially good for planting trees and shrubs.** As the weather cools, the soil is still warm and stimulates the growth of roots on the newly planted greenery. Thus, plant roots become established quickly while the tops in the cooler air slow down and do not require as much water and minerals as during the summer growing season. If fall rains begin as expected, they will provide the ground water required by newly planted trees and shrubs. Certainly, letting Mother Nature take care of the fall and winter irrigation is about as economical as you can get! Whether the trees, shrubs, and perennials are evergreen or deciduous, remember fall is for planting.

**Check your irrigation systems now for leaks and broken or malfunctioning parts.** Be sure emitters are not plugged with algae. If they are, clean and rinse in a 10% bleach solution. Check also for adequate coverage. You may need to add emitters on drip systems for maturing trees or shrubs as they increase in size, or you may need to adjust the length of time the system runs. To gauge whether your plants are getting adequate water, check the depth of moisture in the soil the day following watering. Soil around trees and shrubs should show moisture to 12 inches down and do not need water again until the top three to four inches of soil is dry. Where one emitter was enough when a one-gallon tree or shrub was planted, now, two or three years later, two to four emitters spaced 12 to 19 inches from the trunk at the dripline may be necessary. If you are not sure about moisture depth, we recommend that you get and use a **Rapitest® Moisture Meter**. When you use your moisture meter, be sure to keep the tip of the probe clean and push it into the center of the root ball as well as into the area between the trunk and dripline. Apply three or four inches of mulch to help prevent water loss by evaporation. The mulch should be at least between the plant's trunk and dripline, but over the entire area is better.

August and September will bring waves of heat that can further stress your plants. The result is that our plants depend on the gardener's irrigation if they are to survive.

**Remember that lawns, trees and shrubs cannot coexist on the same water schedule!**

## Watering for New Plantings

**Once planting is completed,** water plants thoroughly. Check plants for water daily for the first week and if necessary, place a hose on trickle near the base of the plant and leave it on for 30 to 60 minutes. You may need to run drip or spray systems every three to four days for the first two months if you find that the top two to three inches of soil dry out quickly. You can then adjust according to the following recommendations.

**Please check out our** Care Guides for [Irrigating Plants](#) and [Conserving Garden Water](#), which offer more specific information. For a summary of irrigating lawns; shrubs and roses; trees; and vegetables read below. We tend to irrigate our plants too much. These recommendations will reduce water use. The plants may not be as attractive as usual, but they will survive.

### Watering for Lawns

**Ideally, lawns should be watered** one to two times a week for one-half to one hour to encourage deep root systems. Lawns look best with at least one inch of water per week. If the lawn has a bluish cast after being walked upon, it needs to be watered. You may want to eliminate your lawn and replace it with more water efficient plants.

Turn off the sprinklers and save the water for trees and shrubs. In Redwood City you will get \$\$ for every square foot of lawn you replace with water-efficient plants and/or drip irrigation. This will be a good time to shop our 30% off sale.

### Watering for Shrubs and Roses

**For most drip or spray systems,** one time a week for one to one and a half hours should be adequate and should provide five to ten gallons per bush. Remember to avoid direct water on rose foliage unless you water in the morning in order to decrease the incidence of rust. Contrary to popular belief, wet foliage does not promote powdery mildew.

### Watering for Trees

**Water established trees once a month** June through September for a few hours with bubblers at the dripline to ensure a deep soaking. You can also build a berm just beyond the dripline at least four to six inches high and flood

monthly. Newly planted trees (one year or less) should be watered in a basin for about one-half hour, once a week. A good test for watering newly planted trees and shrubs is to water the newly planted and amended hole until the water pools and stops bubbling.

### **Watering for Vegetables and New Hedge Rows**

**Soaker hoses work great** for vegetable gardens and hedge rows. Run them one to two times per week for four to five hours. Turn pressure on until you count one drip every three seconds along the entire line. When hedges are five or more years old, water once per week.

**Santa Clara Valley Water District offers home visits** to evaluate water systems for water-wise efficiency. Call 1-408-265-2600 Ext. 2554 to schedule an appointment or contact them at [www.valleywater.org](http://www.valleywater.org). In the Redwood City area, call the Water Conservation Department at 650-780-7436 or check out their website <http://www.redwoodcity.org/departments/public-works/water/conservation>.

### **Mulching to Save Water**

**Mulching consists of covering the soil** with a two to four-inch layer of organic matter (fir bark, fir compost, redwood compost, pine needles, oak leaves, straw, rice hulls, etc.). You can mulch with one to two inches of gravel or even four to six layers of newspaper, but the layers of organic matter are best. (See our [Care Guide for Mulching](#).) One notable exception is shredded redwood bark, sometimes referred to as "gorilla hair." We can recommend it for paths, but not for mulching. Its main drawback is that it packs down and is almost impervious to water. Rainwater or sprinkler water does not go through it into the soil thus defeating one of the main purposes of mulch. Do not mulch within four to six inches of a tree's trunk.

## **More tips for great gardens. . .**

## **ANNUALS**

**If planted now, summer annuals** should still give you four more months of color.

**In full sun plant:** Marigolds, Alyssum, Petunias, Lobelia, Cleome, Salpiglossis, Fibrous Begonias, Zinnias, Bedding Dahlias, Cosmos, and Ageratum. Many of these are good "bee plants". See our [Planting Flowers to Attract Bees & Butterflies Care Guide](#) for more examples.

**For the shade,** try New Guinea impatiens, Fibrous Begonias, and Coleus. Some full sun annuals will also perform decently with only a few hours of sun, such as Alyssum and Lobelia.

*Marigolds*



*Alyssum*



*Petunias*



*Lobelia*



*Cleome*



*Salpiglossis*



*Fibrous Begonias*



*Zinnias*



*Bedding Dahlias*



*Cosmos*



*Ageratum*



*New Guinea Impatiens*



*Fibrous Begonia*



*Coleus*



**Fertilize annuals monthly** with a granular fertilizer such as **Master Nursery® Rose & Flower Food** or **Gardner & Bloome Rose & Flower Fertilizer**. Check the back of your fertilizer bag to be sure it contains iron and sulfur to help correct our alkaline soil and water.

**Don't forget** to apply **Monterey Sluggo®** or **Deadline®** after planting annuals.

**Mildew on some annuals will begin to show up** by about the middle of August. You can ignore it and rationalize that the plants will die in a few months or start a preventive spray of **Safer® Brand Garden Fungicide** or **Master Nursery® Year-Round Spray Oil** on leaves which have no infection. Spray now and then again, every two weeks. For leaves infected now, spray with **Master Nursery® Year-Round Spray Oil** or **Bonide® Fung-onil™**.

## BULBS

**Dig tulip bulbs now if you plan on replanting in fall and winter.** Dry on paper bags or tarp in shady but dry location and then remove all the old vegetation. When dry, store in refrigerator in paper bags for at least eight weeks. Never store in plastic bags as the bulbs will 'sweat' and then become moldy.

**Remove the foliage from your spring bloomers now** (daffodils, Dutch iris, Galanthus, etc.), however, leave them in the ground to naturalize. Do not water the bulbs during the summer.

**Apply Master Nursery® Bulb Food** when bulbs break ground and again when they finish blooming.

**Bone Meal is no longer recommended for bulbs** because modern processing has removed all the nitrogen and potassium (1-15-0). It's still a good source of phosphorus and calcium. Use **Master Nursery® Bulb Food** for your bulbs (5-10-5 plus sulfur and iron).

## FRUITS



**To decrease the occurrence of Eutypa in apricots**, prune after harvest in August or September. As Eutypa spores are most prolific in early fall and are spread by splashing rain, pruning now allows pruning wounds to callous before the rains start and thus prevents infection by this fungus.

**Through mid-August, a light pruning using heading cuts** can benefit the home orchard in two ways. First, summer pruning helps to maintain the size of your trees. By reducing canopy mass currently, trees grow at a slower rate and use less water. Second, you can encourage secondary branching on long whips. This increases fruiting wood. In contrast, winter pruning tends to remove dead, dying and diseased wood; shape trees; and enhance light and air penetration to fruiting wood.



**Olive fruit flies** have made harvesting olives for use difficult. The female lays eggs in the very young fruit and when the egg hatches, the maggot feeds and excretes its waste into the olive rendering the olives mushy and useless. Recently, Monterey Chemical Company has made available an insect spray to use for controlling olive fruit flies. The spray contains the active ingredient **Spinosad**. Spinosad is accepted for use in organic gardening and is listed by the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI). It can even be used for leaf miners. You should use an olive fruit fly trap, so you know when to use **Spinosad**. (See our [Olive Tree Care Guide](#) for more complete details).



**Fire blight** appears as blackened branches with the tips bent down like a shepherd's crook and most commonly affects pears but also loquats, pyracantha, apples, photinia, and some other plants in the rose family. To control, cut nine to 12 inches below affected tissue, sterilizing pruning tools between *each* cut with a bleach solution or Lysol. Next spring, spray with copper (**Monterey Liqui-Cop®**) after bloom has finished.



**To control powdery mildew on grapes**, spray every two weeks with **Safer® Brand Garden Fungicide** starting when new growth is six to 12 inches long. Be judicious with fertilizer so that excess foliage isn't generated (more susceptible to mildew).

**Table grapes** should be watered deeply once every seven to 14 days. Wine grapes, on the other hand, are generally watered less frequently in order to concentrate flavor and sugar.

**Fertilize deciduous fruit trees and vines** around Memorial Day and Labor Day with **Master Nursery® Fruit Tree & Vine Food** or **Gardner & Bloome® Citrus & Fruit Tree Fertilizer**. Don't be tempted to over fertilize, as this can cause secondary problems with some fruits. The fruit trees store the Labor Day fertilizer in their roots where it is readily available when spring growth begins.

**If fruit trees seem chlorotic**, showing yellow leaves with green veins, foliar feed with **Master Nursery® Liquid Gold** using a hose end sprayer, at one-week intervals until symptoms disappear. Chlorosis is usually avoided with the May fertilizer or with a supplemental soil application of iron sulfate in February and late June or July.



**Peach leaf curl** is best controlled by three dormant sprays in November, December and January. Research studies performed at UC Davis supports that the most effective controls are applied when trees are dormant. Growing season controls such as picking off infected leaves, blasting leaves with water, treating with kelp solution or other nostrums, produce no corrective results.

**Brown rot of apricots, peaches, nectarines, and plums** manifests as dieback of and/or oozing from short fruiting spurs or branch tips, a decrease or absence in fruit production, and sometimes a dieback of branches or limbs. While it is too late to spray for this disease this year, next year apply two additional sprays of **Bonide® Fung-onil™** or **Monterey Liqui-Cop®** at pink bud and full bloom. When pruning this summer or next winter, you should remove dead wood, oozing wood and any wood with cankers. The mid-Peninsula is a borderline environmental area for apricots. If they are badly infected with oozing twigs and stubs, have dry, dead flowers and few or no fruit, you should probably remove the tree.



**Check apple and pear trees** for woolly apple aphid, which appear as a white cottony substance, usually in crevices, pruning cuts and on the roots close to the base of the tree. Spray with **GardenTech Sevin®** or **Malathion**.

**To prevent sunscald paint deciduous fruit tree trunks** with a white, water-based interior latex paint cut 50% with water. This is especially important for young trees planted in blazing hot locations. The paint washes off in winter rain.

**Citrus can be pruned now if desired or needed.** Check for snail damage and for scale, a sucking insect that usually clusters along fruit stems, new growth and the undersides of leaves. If scale is found, UC recommends that you spray three times at two-week intervals with **Master Nursery® Year-Round Spray Oil (Horticultural Oil)**. Don't use horticultural oil more than four times during the growing season. Wait at least two weeks between applications and don't spray if temperatures will exceed 85 degrees (F). Don't spray oil and sulfur within one month of each other. Check out our [Citrus Care Guide](#) for symptoms and control of citrus leaf miners.



Fertilize citrus in March, May, July, and September with **Master Nursery® Citrus Food** or **Gardner & Bloome® Citrus & Fruit Tree Fertilizer**. Be sure that your fruit tree fertilizer contains iron and sulfur.

## GROUNDCOVERS

**Be sure to water new plantings growing in full sun deeply every three to four days.** Erigeron, Convolvulus, Creeping Rosemary, Ceanothus and Manzanita are excellent groundcovers **for hot, dry locations** (though they do need water while becoming established). Blue Star Creeper, Woolly Thyme and Creeping Chamomile fill in nicely between steppingstones **in full to part sun** and can withstand some foot traffic. For the shade, try Campanula, Sweet Woodruff, Vinca Minor or Baby Tears.

*Erigeron*



*Convolvulus*



*Creeping Rosemary*



*Ceanothus*



*Manzanita*



*Blue Star Creeper*



*Woolly Thyme*



*Creeping Chamomile*



*Campanula*



*Sweet Woodruff*



*Vinca Minor*



*Baby Tears*



**Fertilize groundcovers** lightly with **Master Nursery® Formula 49™** twice a year, in February and May.

**To ward off slugs and snails**, bait with **Monterey® Sluggo** or **Deadline®**. **Deadline®** is most effective but also the most toxic. **Sluggo is safe for pets and people**. All the slug and snail baits except **Sluggo** contain metaldehyde which **is toxic to all animals** and people, do not use where children and dogs play. Metaldehyde attracts snails and slugs and may or may not kill them. Only **Deadline®** contains metaldehyde and carbaryl which attracts and kills the snails and slugs.

## LAWNS



**If lawns show raccoon damage**, apply **Bayer Advanced™ Grub Control** to kill ground-dwelling grubs and cutworms. Although it is too late to use **Beneficial Nematodes** this year, consider applying them next April and July. Beneficial Nematodes are microscopic organisms which consume various destructive soil-dwelling insects, such as cutworms. They do not harm earthworms and are safe around pets and people and are considered organic.



**Set mowers** to two and one-half to three inches for Fescue and Bluegrass lawns and one to one and one-half inches for Bermuda grass lawns. Consider leaving lawn clippings on the lawn. As clippings break down, they provide the lawn with nutrients, reducing the need for fertilizers by 30-50%. Clippings will not cause thatch. First mowing of a new lawn is when it is three and one-half to four inches tall.

**Lawn seeded through September may need moisture up to three times a day** so that germinating seeds do not dry out. Cover fresh seed with about one-quarter to one half inch of **Master Nursery® Gardener's Gold** potting soil or one-half inch of **Master Nursery® Gold Rush** to help retain moisture and keep the birds off the seeds.

**Spread seed or lay sod through September.** For details on preparing an area for lawn installation, check our [Care Guide for Lawn Preparation](#). **Sod orders** placed with Wegman's usually take two to three days for delivery. Call us for details!

**Feed lawns** with **Easy Livin'® Master Green™ Lawn Food** or **Master Green™ Weed & Feed**. For an organic product, use **Gardner & Bloome® Lawn Fertilizer**. During the drought, it is best to use fertilizers at half strength.

**If you have had problems with Bermuda grass in your lawn**, apply **Monterey Turflon® Ester**, which also controls annual and perennial broadleaf weeds in established lawns. For crabgrass and some other weed grasses use **Monterey Crab-E-Rad™ Plus** which has a ready to use form for spraying crabgrass, nutsedge and broadleaf weeds in lawns.

**For oxalis** (the plant that looks like clover) and broadleaf weeds, use **Monterey Turflon® Ester**, a liquid that can be diluted and sprayed over entire lawns. Because oxalis is so tenacious, two applications may be needed. If oxalis has produced seed pods, apply a pre-emergent weed killer now and in October. We like **Concern® Weed Prevention Plus** brand, which is non-toxic, contains a slow release fertilizer and is made from corn gluten.

**Remember—you cannot use pre-emergent products** for three to four months prior to seeding a lawn or laying sod. You may use **Master Nursery® KleenUp** three to four days before seeding or laying sod. Before installing pick up or print our [Care Guide for Lawn Preparation](#).

**Established lawns should be aerated at least every two years** to permit water and air to enter the soil. Those lawns should also be dethatched every three or four years.

## PERENNIALS

**Be sure to deadhead** as blooms fade to ensure continuous bloom throughout summer.

**Many of the ornamental grasses are beginning to bloom.** Check out Blue Oat Grass, Variegated Silver Grass and both the red and green forms of Fountain Grass. Grasses lend an architecture and texture to the landscape unmatched by other plants. They are also drought-tolerant and deer-resistant.

*Blue Oat Grass*



*Variegated Silver Grass*



*Fountain Grass*



**Check out:** Buddleja, Salvia, Penstemon, Daylilies, Agastache, Yarrow, Verbena, and Coreopsis. **For the sun:** Campanula, Tuberosa, Jacob's ladder, Chinese Foxglove, Bacopa, and Heliotrope **for partial shade.**

*Buddleja*



*Salvia*



*Penstemon*



*Daylilies*



*Agastache*



*Yarrow*



*Verbena*



*Coreopsis*



*Campanula*



*Tuberosa*



*Jacob's ladder*



*Chinese Foxglove*



*Bacopa*



*Heliotrope*



**A nice handful of sun-loving perennials double as both deer-resistant and drought-tolerant plants:**

Lavender, Yarrow, Salvias, Echinacea, Sea Lavender, Society Garlic, Penstemon, and Brachyscome all provide excellent summer color in addition to these practical attributes.

*Lavender*



*Yarrow*



*Salvias*



*Echinacea*



*Sea Lavender*



*Society Garlic*



*Penstemon*



*Brachyscome*



**Fertilize perennials in February, May and August** with **Master Nursery® Rose and Flower Food** or **Master Nursery® Formula 49™**. You can skip fertilizing in May if your garden consists of perennials that thrive on neglect. Many of the drought tolerant perennials (see above), for example, prefer not to be pampered with high nitrogen, high phosphorus fertilizers. If you have Australian natives such as; Grevillea, acacia and Correa, they cannot tolerate high phosphorus fertilizers (try cottonseed meal (6-2-1).

*Grevillea*



*Acacia*



*Correa*



**Bait perennials** with **Monterey Sluggo®** or **Deadline®**.

## ROSES

**A quick word on using horticultural oil (Master Nursery® Year-Round Spray Oil) on roses and all other plants during the growing season:**

- ⤴ Do not use more than four times during the growing season.
- ⤴ Wait at least two weeks between applications.
- ⤴ Remember that oil may burn foliage and flowers during hot spells so never apply oil when the daytime temperature will exceed 85 degrees.
- ⤴ If you are using a sulfur product to control fungi, you must wait at least one month before applying oil.

**Be sure to stay on top of deadheading for continual bloom!**

**Aphids can be controlled** by blasting off with water or by spraying with **Safer® Yard & Garden Insect Killer**. You can also use **Malathion**, **Sevin** or **Horticultural Oil**. If you use **Horticultural Oil**, do not apply more than four times during the growing season. Wait at least two weeks between applications. *Note that oil may damage leaves during hot spells.*



**Watch for katydids and cucumber beetles**, both of which chew on flower buds, leaving holes in flower petals. Treat as for aphids (see above) except for the water blasting. To treat organically, use **Spinosad**.



**Rose weevils and curculios chew holes at the bases of buds** then lay their eggs within. When larvae hatch, they eat their way through flower buds and petals. The only control for these pests is to disbud plants as if deadheading. A main symptom is that the rose bud head will droop. Malathion will get the visible adults.



**Bristly rose slugs, the larvae of a wasp**, eats halfway or all the way through rose leaves. In severe cases, the leaf appears almost shredded. Control as for aphids except water blasting or use Spinosad or pyrethrum.

**You may also notice activity by leaf cutter bees**, which remove neat, semi-circular notches from the margins of leaves. Disregard this insect—these notches are harmless. The leaf cutter bee is extremely beneficial in the garden and the piece of leaf she removes is used for her egg laying process.



**Do not spray herbicides** such as **Roundup** or **Master Nursery® KleenUp** (Glyphosate) within 100 feet of roses. If weeds appear in rose beds, hand-dig or use a tool such as a hula-hoe to remove.

An application of **Concern® Weed Prevention Plus** (totally organic) applied around your roses when you prune in the spring prevents most weeds and provides slow release fertilizer.



**Powdery Mildew** appears as whitish splotches on the surface of leaves and on buds and stems. To control, use **Safer® Brand Garden Fungicide** or a diluted mixture of **Monterey Liqui-Cop®** and **Master Nursery® Year-Round Spray Oil**; four parts copper and six parts oil. If these measures aren't satisfactory, use **Bonide® Fung-onil™**.

Rust appears as small yellow to black spots on the upper surface of leaves, which, when flipped, show rust-colored pustules. Use the products to control. See our [Care Guide for Treating Common Rose Disease](#).



**Roses are heavy feeders and get very thirsty**. Fertilize monthly with **Master Nursery® Rose & Flower Food**, and water once or twice a week for half an hour (build a berm at the drip-line and then use a hose at about one-quarter strength with the end covered by an old sweat sock) so the root area is flooded. If you are on a drought schedule, use fertilizer at half strength.

The **Deluxe Rose Pro's Leather Gauntlet Garden Gloves** are a "got to have it" item for thin skinned rose fanciers or gardeners working with close branching roses. It is designed for hand and forearm protection. The **Deluxe Rose Pro's** gauntlet is made of tough cow skin and the glove is made of pigskin.

**If your gardenias show brown buds**, which drop off before opening, the cause is probably thrips. Use **Bayer Advanced™ Tree & Shrub Protect and Feed** once a year if the plant is in the ground or twice a year in a container or **Bonide® Captain Jack's DeadBug Brew® (Spinosad)** every three to four weeks. Keep in mind that gardenias need an acid soil; use **Master Nursery® Rhododendron, Camellia, Gardenia and Azalea Fertilizer**. Mulch yearly with **Master Nursery® Gold Rush** and apply **iron sulfate** twice a year (February and July).



**Four of the fastest growing shrubs for hedges and screens** are: Black-twig Pittosporum, Red-tip Photinia, Purple Hopseed bush and Pittosporum eugenoides. Left unpruned, each will reach approximately 20 feet tall and wide, but each can be maintained at six to eight feet if desired. Remember to prune newly planted hedges seasonally, even if lightly. This will encourage plants to be bushy and dense.

*Black-twig Pittosporum*



*Red-tip Photinia*



*Purple Hopseed*



*Pittosporum*



**Passion vines** erupt into bloom in mid-summer, offering unusual flowers in an array of bright, tropical colors. **Bower vine** and **Scarlet Trumpet vine** continue to bloom through mid-summer and make excellent companions to **White Potato vine**, which blooms all summer. **Double Mandevillas** and **Madagascar Jasmines** have just arrived and are a beautiful addition to a protected area. **Duranta**, a beautiful blue old friend, is being revived. It requires planting in a hot location, is evergreen, looks like a vine, but can self-support. These may grow up to eight feet tall by eight feet wide.

*Passion Vines*



*Bower Vine*



*Scarlet Trumpet Vine*



*White Potato Vine*



*Double Mandevillas*



*Madagascar Jasmines*



*Duranta*



**Watch for evidence of thrips and black vine weevil on rhododendrons.** Thrips damage appears as a mottling or bleaching of the upper surfaces of leaves and small, glossy black dots on the undersides of leaves. Weevils leave distinctive notches along leaf margins as they feed. Both can be controlled with **Spinosad**.



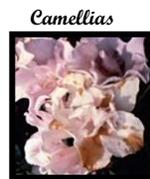
**Fuchsia gall mites** create gnarled leaves with reddish blisters and are common on hybrid fuchsias. If symptoms appear, UC Agricultural Service recommends pruning out disfigured growth, and spraying with **GardenTech Sevin®** once a month, starting in March. You can also begin a preventative program using **GardenTech Sevin®** once a month, starting when you do your spring pruning. Consider species fuchsias, which are mite resistant. While not as showy as the hybrids, they offer the same bloom time and a surprising diversity of foliar textures. Fuchsia mites are spread by wind; insects and hummingbirds after flowers

come into bloom. (See our [Fuchsia Care Guide](#) for a list of hybrid fuchsias resistant to the fuchsia gall mites.) The species fuchsias are ideal Bonsai candidates.

**Camellia golden ring spot virus** affects only camellias and manifests as yellow rings or circular splotches on two-year old or older leaves. It may also cause streaking in flowers. There is currently no cure for this virus, but it may be spread by pruning tools. Be sure to clean tools with a 10% bleach solution or Lysol between pruning your shrubs. The virus will not kill the plant.



**Fertilize evergreen shrubs and vines in April and August** with **Master Nursery® Formula 49™** (8-4-4 plus micro-nutrients). Fertilize flowering shrubs and vines with **Master Nursery® Rose & Flower Food** in February and June. All Master Nursery fertilizers also contain iron and sulfur to help mitigate the Peninsula's alkaline soil and water.



**If your azaleas and camellias have been troubled by petal blight**, which appears as brown splotching on petal margins of open flowers, partly open flowers and flower buds, keep beds free of flower debris. Remove infected flowers and buds and try not to let infected petals hit the ground. If they do, gather and place in trash immediately—*do not compost!* Spray the azaleas with **Monterey Liqui-Cop®** or **Bonide® Fung-onil™** when the buds start to swell. There is no effective spray for camellia petal blight.

## TREES

**Summer blooming trees include:** Crape Myrtle, Smoke Tree, Chaste Tree, Jacaranda and Mimosa Tree. Crape myrtles, smoke trees and chaste trees are by nature multi-trunked, but many growers train them as standards, i.e. on a single trunk. The multi-trunked trees will not be as tall as the single trunk trees at maturity. Jacaranda is semi-evergreen and is noted for its feathery evergreen foliage and large plumes of purple flowers. Mimosa has similar foliage but is deciduous and sports a pink pom-pom flower. Both require liberal summer water.



**If you're thinking of planting crape myrtle**, consider planting those with the Native American tribal names, such as *Tuscarora*, *Hopi* or *Natchez*. These varieties were hybridized specifically to resist powdery mildew. Otherwise, spray mildew infected plants twice with sulfur a week apart at the first hint of mildew.

Also, be aware that there are in excess of 200 cultivars of crape myrtle. In general, they have been grouped based on size: dwarf (2'-5'), semi-dwarf (5'-12'), intermediate (13'-20') and tree type (23'-33').

**To prevent fruit on olives, liquidambar and ornamental plums**, apply **Monterey Florel® Brand Growth Regulator** one time during bloom.

**For established trees that are isolated in the landscape** or for those trees which seem chlorotic or in which the soil is dry, and the plants are "thirsty", use the **Ross® Root Feeder** to fertilize or deep water the trees.

**Don't forget to fertilize your deciduous fruit trees** at the end of August or first of September with a high nitrogen fertilizer. This is a very important fertilizer treatment to give the plants a good start next spring.

**Consider planting mustard in your fruit tree orchard** and then using it as green compost in the spring. Orchardists use the deep rooting mustard to crack the clay subsoil layer around their trees and to then take up deep-seated minerals.

## VEGETABLES

*Tomatoes*



*Lettuce*



*Spinach*



*Cilantro*



*Chard*



*Mustard*



**The weather so far this year has been undependable for the ripening of tomatoes.** Tomatoes need continuous hot weather to ripen. With hot weather in mid to late August and through September, we should have a good late season crop.

**Cool season greens**, such as **lettuce, spinach, cilantro, chard,** and **mustard** can be planted through the summer in morning sun locations. Under warmer temperatures and with longer days of light; they will go to seed more quickly, so plan on planting more frequently.



**If you have had problems with verticillium or fusarium wilt on tomatoes and potatoes**, consider solar beds with clear plastic for six to eight weeks during the months of June to September. Solarization sterilizes the soil by cooking harmful microbes in the soil. Cover beds with clear, two-mil plastic and be sure to anchor plastic with dirt or heavy objects. While these beds will be unusable for a season, the sacrifice will pay off in healthy plants the following year.



**For whiteflies on tomatoes**, use **Monterey Take Down Garden Spray** or **Master Nursery® Year-Round Spray Oil (Horticultural Oil)** every four days for 12 days. Consider using whitefly traps in conjunction with the sprays for more effective control. Also walk through the area with a hand-held vacuum cleaner and bump the plants to make the whiteflies fly around and then vacuum up these flying reproduction adults.

**Many people started their tomatoes and peppers too early** and the plants sat in the cold ground where their root systems did not develop. The plants did not thrive as they should have.

*Cauliflower*



*Broccoli*



*Cabbage*



*Kale*



*Peas*



*Bok Choi*



*Beets*



*Turnips*



**For the do-it-yourselfer**—by the end of the month it will be time to **start winter vegetables from seed**. Among the winter vegetables are the cole crops such as Cauliflower, Broccoli, Cabbage and, Kale, Peas, Bok Choi, Beets, Turnips and more. Start them in containers or prepared garden soil.

Many gardeners have complained that their squash failed to mature. The squash started to grow, got about two inches long then turned yellow and dropped off. The squash we harvest and eat is from the female part of the flower. If it is not pollinated, it develops and dies as described. (See our [Care Guide for Cucurbits](#) to prevent this.)

## OTHER THINGS TO DO

**Are you remembering to keep clean water in the bird bath or saucers?** Birds eat their weight in insects each week and are a fine addition to your garden, but they need water for drinking.

*Ladybugs*



*Aphids*



*Thrips*



*Mites*



*Praying Mantises*



**Consider utilizing beneficial insects** in lieu of insecticides this summer. **Ladybugs** and their larva feast on aphids, thrips and mites, and are especially useful in rose gardens and vegetable gardens. Release 50–100 at a time, in the evening. Set out shallow dishes of water along with plant parts covered with aphids. These props will encourage ladybugs to stick around. **Praying mantises** are sold in their egg cases. Set out egg cases in a shady location off the ground, such as in a tree or shrub. Eggs will hatch mid- to late summer.

**Container plants must be fertilized** with an appropriate granular fertilizer monthly. To determine the amount of fertilizer to use, remember this formula: Measure the diameter of the container in inches, divide that number by six and scatter that many tablespoons of suitable fertilizer (e.g. citrus, vegetable, etc.) over the surface of the soil in the container.

**Consider watering indoor plants with** two tablespoons vinegar to one gallon of water once a month in order to reduce salt build-up and to lower ph.

**Liquid Fence® Deer & Rabbit Repellent** has proved to be extremely effective in deterring deer from yards and gardens. The trick is to use it **exactly** as instructed.

Likewise, **Bonide® MoleMax® Mole & Vole Repellent** has proven to be effective in ridding yards and gardens of gophers and moles. The secret, again, is to follow the instructions **exactly** as instructed. **Bonide® MoleMax® Mole & Vole Repellent** will not kill the pests but rather chases them someplace else.

**Remember! You cannot mix up a batch of spray with water and then save the unused portion because it starts to decompose within two hours.** Dump it into a flower bed or on the lawn and rinse out the spray tank. Try using a **Gilmore Hose End**, which has a self-metering device preventing less waste.

**There are more than 4,000 different native species of bees** in North America, all of which are good pollinators. Encourage them by planting: Sedums, Crocosmia, Coreopsis, Goldenrod, Yarrow, Penstemon, Fennel, Linden, Rudbeckia, Dogwood, Lavender, Rosemary, Legumes (no photo) and Catmint. See our [Bee and Butterfly Care Guide](#) for a more complete and local list.

*Sedum*



*Sedum*



*Crocosmia*



*Coreopsis*



*Goldenrod*



*Yarrow*



*Penstemon*



*Fennel*



*Linden*



*Rudbeckia*



*Dogwood*



*Lavender*



*Rosemary*



*Catmint*



**Many gardeners have started using coffee grounds** as soil amendment. This is okay but no more than twice a year because most plants are susceptible to caffeine poisoning.

**Recently a garden column suggested that California scrub jays were beneficial because they ate snails.** Sorry, but all the symptoms described were those of roof rats feasting on the snails. Snails are a favorite food of roof rats and you can find many snail shells with holes lying around wood piles, and ivy beds where the rats hang out.

**Beware of those radio ads which proclaim that their potting soil is not 'just dirt'.** Please compare their product to our **Gardner & Bloome® Organic Potting Soil**. A good potting soil should have an absolute minimum of six ingredients. **Gardner & Bloome® Organic Potting Soil** has nine. Remember, potting soil is for use in containers. Do not use potting soil as an amendment for improving your garden soil.

Two very low ground covers you may want to investigate are: cotoneaster 'lowfast' and Dymondia margaretae. Both need full sun and are somewhat drought tolerant.