



Gardening Jobs in August

- Continue to water plants in containers even if there has been some rain as the foliage can prevent water getting to the soil. Hanging baskets and containers will need watering daily – twice a day if it's hot. Keep feeding weekly with something high in potash such as liquid tomato food.
- Pick your courgettes when they are small to avoid ending up with marrows! Also harvest tomatoes, peppers and other fruit and veg as it ripens.
- Nip out the tip of runner bean plants once they have reached the top of the support canes.
- If you fancy home grown new potatoes for Christmas then now is the time to buy “second cropping” potatoes. Charlotte is a good variety and they are best planted in early August and no later than the end of August.
- Seed sowing: continue to sow salad crops such as lettuce, salad leaves, radish, beetroot. Also plant winter spinach and spring cabbage outside.
- Plant rooted strawberry runners to ensure a decent crop next year; if you leave it much later you will have a reduced crop.
- Take cuttings of woody herbs including hyssop, lavender, rosemary, curry plant, rue and sage. Dip the cuttings into hormone rooting compound before inserting them into small pots of equal parts peat and silver sand or peat and perlite.
- Keep dead heading annuals and give them a weekly feed with liquid tomato food to keep them flowering all summer.
- Trim lavender plants once they have finished flowering.
- Camellias, azelias and rhododendrons are forming flower buds for next year. Make sure that you keep them well watered in dry spells or the buds will not develop properly. Give them a feed with ericaceous plant food, especially if they have yellowing leaves.
- Take cuttings of tender perennial such as verbenas, argyranthemums, fuchsias, salvias and pelargoniums. Dip the cuttings into a hormone rooting compound before inserting them into small pots of half and half compost and perlite or compost and silver sand. Water in well and keep the cuttings in a cold frame or even on warm windowsill out of direct sunlight. They should root within eight weeks and can then be potted up in multi-purpose compost and overwintered in a heated greenhouse or on a bedroom windowsill.
- Stop feeding roses now as it will encourage them to put on soft growth which will be prone to an early frost.
- Rambler roses that have finished flowering can be pruned now. Cut the long old stems that flowered this year, but leave non-flowering shoots as these should bloom next year.
- In the Pond:
Water lilies are in flower at the moment so it's a good time to choose new ones for your pond - there are lots of colours and sizes available so make sure you choose one the right size for your pond or water feature. It's ok to trim any leaves that are hiding the flowers.
- Thin out oxygenating weed if it has become congested; leave it at the side of the pond for a few days.
- Barley straw is an effective remedy to green water and algae. Ready to use nets of barley straw are available at the garden centre or you can make your own by stuffing an old pair of tights with straw and dropping it in the pond.

This information is intended for guidance purposes only. We are happy to give help and advice on most gardening topics at the garden centre.

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