

LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE AUGUST TIPS

Plant Tips

August is a relaxing month to enjoy our plants, to do a little weeding, and some watering. We still have to check that our plants are not overrun by insects, and if we don't have rain, we must water our plants, shrubs, and nearby trees. Insects are attracted to thirsty, weakened plants. Late August is a good time to dig up and split daylilies or irises.

If you have a bush or tree near your unit that looks sick or has something growing on its leaf or bark, fill out a Landscape Request form.

Some interesting facts about earthworms: They aerate and fertilize the soil. After a rain you may have seen worms on your driveway. The rain moistens the air and the worms come above ground to mate.

Garden Tips

Time to harvest beans, beets, garlic, onions, potatoes, squash, and tomatoes when they are young and tender. When onion and garlic plant leaves turn yellow, dig them up, dry them and store by hanging them in a cool, dry place. When stalks on potatoes flop, it's time to harvest them. Allow potatoes to dry and brush the soil from them, but do not wash the potatoes until you use them. Plant another row of beans and spinach. Thin out beets, radishes and spinach

If you are growing basil and it's more than you can use, give some to neighbors/friends. You can also freeze basil by first washing and drying the leaves; then place 5 to 6 leaves between layers of wax paper; wrap in foil, identify the package and freeze.

Halyomorpha halys, (stink bug) may be invading our area in late July or in August. It feeds on fruits, ornamental trees, shrubs and vegetables. The insect is about 5/8" long and 3/8" wide. with alternating dark and light bands on the last two segments of its antennae. The insect flies in September and early October, and will try to over winter in our homes by getting in through cracks and crevices around doors and windows. . When crushed or vacuumed up, the insect gives off a skunk- like odor.