LANDSCAPE
AUGUST TIPS

August Plant Hints

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. For insect problems on roses use Bayer Advanced 2 in 1 Systemic Rose and Flower Care – protects/ feeds for 8 weeks.

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 to have Brickman take a look. Bayer also makes a 12 Month Tree and Shrub Protect and Feed product. One application is good for 12 months. These products can be bought at Home Depot, Gales or Petitti nurseries. Always read the directions before application.

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 Hints

The hot days of August allow us to rest and enjoy our planting efforts from previous months. 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. For insect problems on roses use Bayer Advanced 2 in 1 Systemic Rose and Flower Care – protects/ feeds for 8 weeks.

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 to have Brickman take a look. Bayer also makes a 12 Month Tree and Shrub Protect and Feed product. One application is good for 12 months. These products can be bought at Home Depot, Gales or Petitti nurseries. Always read the directions before application.

Garden Hints

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 have an insect problem with your vegetables, spray with Safers insecticidal soap.

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. Or you can make Pesto:

1 large bunch of basil
2 cloves of garlic
1/2 cup of pine nuts (in Italian aisle of super market) (freeze unused portion)
a little olive oil (1 ½ -2 oz.)

Put into blender, pulse, add a little olive oil, pulse again. The Pesto sauce should have the consistency of creamed butter. Place into jars, cover top with a layer of olive oil. Refrigerate. Pesto sauce can be added to cooked/ drained pasta, on top of a baked potato or a tsp. added to minestrone.

Some cautionary notes:
After walking pets, check them for tics. A coyote has been seen during day time hours, so take care when walking small pets.

A new stink bug, Halyomorpha halys, will 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 which should be tightly sealed with caulk. When crushed or vacuumed up, the insect gives off a skunk- like odor. The vacuum bag should be removed and discarded.

Information from Crockett's Victory Garden; Month-By-Month Gardening in Ohio; A Calendar of Garden Chores by Joan Lee Faust; Italian Food by Elizabeth David; Ohio State University