



GARDENING HINTS FROM THE PRO

Sherri Harrah from Plants for All Seasons on SH 249

August Lawn and Garden To Do List

In the Lawn

- Watch for chinch bugs to start working. They are a little later than normal this year with all the rain. Chinch bugs thrive in dry areas and work their way through your lawn. If you know your sprinklers are getting good coverage and there are growing brown areas, start looking for chinch bugs. You must treat ASAP to prevent them from killing your lawn. I recommend a .2% granular bifenthrin and water it in deep. There are a lot of insecticides that claim to kill chinch bugs, but in my experience, the bifenthrin works the fastest and lasts the longest. If you're not sure if you have chinch bugs, bring in pictures of the lawn, and cut out a 10"x10" section of grass and soil in an area that is going from good to bad so we can see the transition and check for live bugs.
- Feed with MicroLife Hybrid to maintain a lush healthy lawn without burning.
- Check sprinklers to make sure your coverage is good and adjust the timer based on rainfall. If we continue to stay wet, turn off the sprinklers until the grass looks like it needs it. When you do water, water deep, and infrequently. This will create deeper root systems.

In the Flowerbeds

- It's not too late to add flowers to your landscape. Just remember not to rely on your sprinklers to do the watering the first 2 weeks or so. Do some hose watering if they start to show any signs of wilt. Once their little root systems have branched out into the bed soil, you can back off the hose water and leave it to the sprinkler system.
- Keep everything well fed with Nelsons Colorstar every 4-6 weeks to keep everything blooming and happy!
- Make sure to add leafmold compost when planting to help retain moisture, and then add an inch of native hardwood mulch to keep your soil from drying out and keep weeds to a minimum.

In the Veggie Garden

- It's time to plant your Fall Tomatoes!!! Rip out your tired Spring tomatoes and replace with new plants ASAP! Sometimes you can get tomatoes through Christmas if you get them planted in time. Call the nursery to see if shipments have arrived 281-376-1646. We bring them in as soon as the growers have them ready, usually the 2nd to 3rd week in July.
- Make sure to feed your veggies regularly. My favorite is Ladybug Healthy Harvest.
- You can start these seeds directly in the garden now:
Artichoke

Cucumber
Summer and Winter Squash
Tomatillo
Pumpkin

- There's so much more to add to the garden next month, so prepare the unplanted areas of your garden for all your Fall crops by adding Revitalizer Compost and a layer of native mulch.

Don't forget that we brew fresh compost tea available every Saturday and Sunday. Visit with Cody and Matt at the store for more info on the benefits and uses of aerated Compost Tea!

September To do List

This time of the year Fall is in the air!!!!

In the Lawn

Water well but less often. With shorter days and cooler nights – begin to reduce the amount of water applied as needed. Avoid watering in the evenings if possible to prevent fungal diseases. It's time to feed your lawn to get it recovered from Summer. Watch for Chinch bug damage and brownpatch and treat it ASAP with the appropriate product. If you're not sure what's happening in your grass, bring in samples and pictures to the nursery, or email me at sherriharrah@yahoo.com and I'll be happy to help diagnose it for you.

In the flowerbeds

Refresh your flowerbeds and containers: It's time for snapdragons, dianthus, mums, petunias, lobelia, crotons & more. This is my favorite time to plant flowers!!! Our Fall flowers for the most part will last through the Winter!!! You get so much bang for your buck this time of year!!!

In the veggie garden

- It's time to start your Fall vegetable garden. Early September is your last chance to get tomatoes and peppers in the ground.
- Cool-season vegetables such as these can be planted directly in the garden from seed or transplants.

Cauliflower

Broccoli

brussels sprouts

cabbage

kale

mustard

lettuce, and kohlrabi can be planted September through January, look for seeds or transplants to add to your garden.

Watering: Maintain watering on newly planted seeds and transplants.

Hummingbirds: Migrating hummingbirds can be found at your feeders and natural nectar sources. Keeping feeders clean, filled, and in a shady area will encourage visitors

Get Your **Green** On!

Sherri Harrah

Plants For All Seasons 249