

# American Plant Garden Tips May - August

## MAY

### Nursery:

- Watch your garden explode with blooms.
- Apply Safer 3 in 1 fungicide to roses.

### Gardening Solutions:

- Removing weeds is easier when the weeds are small and the soil is moist at this time of year. There are numerous hand tools for removing weeds. If hand-digging is not an option due to the number of weeds use Burnout, an organic herbicide spray, that will eliminate them.

### Annuals & Perennials:

- Plant annuals (flowers). Be sure to use American Plant Biochar Planting Mix to revitalize your soil.
- Time to plant tomatoes and get that herb garden started as well for delicious recipes! Essentials: cages, pruners, Tomato-Tone, and Earth Boxes.
- Elevate your container plantings so water can drain.
- Be sure to weed your gardens regularly, as the weeds will compete with your plants for water and nutrients.

## JUNE

### Nursery:

- Fertilize azaleas with Holly-Tone.
- Remove fading rose blooms to encourage more blooms.

### Gardening Solutions:

- Water your plants deeply, but infrequently. A deep watering will help plants grow deeper roots which make plants healthier. Avoid watering from above which can promote fungal disease. A watering wand or soaker hose can deliver the water to the soil without wetting the leaves. Watering in the morning not only gives the plants the water they need to get through the day, it also allows time for the leaves to dry before night.

### Annuals & perennials:

- Remember to water your plants. It is better to water your garden thoroughly once a week to ensure that a deep root system is established. However, do NOT over water. Water slowly, deeply (5 or 6 inches deep), and let the soil dry between watering.
- Patrol your basil plantings and remove all the clusters of flower buds that form at the stem ends the minute you see them forming. This will encourage nice bushy plants and a continuing supply of leaves.
- Water your lawn and gardens in the morning or late during the day to avoid any evaporation.
- Remove any dead flowers from your perennials to encourage new growth.  
Give perennials a fertilizer boost with Super Bloom.
- Fertilize roses, using a liquid fertilizer at every watering or a dry rose fertilizer like Rose-Tone.

## JULY

### Nursery:

- Trees and shrubs should receive 1-2" of water once every 7-10 days.
- Cut roses back to the first set of 5 leaves after blooming to encourage stronger canes and more flowers.

### Gardening Solutions:

- Mosquitos are a problem when the weather gets warmer. Mosquito larvae develop in water. Larvae can live in as small amount such as a teaspoon of water. Remove any standing water every six days. Use Mosquito Beater, an organic mosquito repellent, to spray in the morning before an outdoor event. Also citronella candles help keep the mosquitoes away.

### Annuals & Perennials:

- As the weather warms up, do not neglect your watering. Water deeply in the morning and avoid light sprinklings. Water at the roots, not on the foliage.
- Remove tomato suckers to keep the energy focused on the fruit on main branches.
- Annuals and perennials can be planted at any time to fill in blank spaces in the garden.
- Remove any dead flowers from your annuals and perennials to encourage new growth.
- Feed your roses at mid-month to encourage more flowering with Rose-Tone.

## AUGUST

### Nursery

- Prune only to retain the shape. Do not prune spring-flowering shrubs such as azaleas and rhododendrons.

### Gardening Solutions:

- Mid-August is the best time to start preparing your lawn for seeding. Remove weeds, rake up the thatch, and core aerate before seeding. Although mid-August may be hot, it's an ideal time for grass seed to start growing. The soil temperatures are high which makes the seed germinate faster, giving it a good head start into the fall.

### Annuals & Perennials:

- Plant fall-flowering bulbs now.
- The vegetable garden is likely to require daily harvesting now. Cucumbers, squash, tomatoes, eggplant, and peppers should be picked as soon as the fruits are ready. This not only captures the best flavor, but it also makes way for new fruits.
- Ripen tomatoes on the vine, not the windowsill; put fallen green tomatoes in a brown paper bag with an apple.
- Fertilize roses with Rose-Tone, last time this year.
- Do not neglect your plants in hanging baskets; they dry out faster than those in the ground.
- Cut back the flower stalks of perennials that have finished blooming.