

Garden Guide

THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH
By Mary Jane Frogge, UNL Extension Associate

Check deciduous trees for fall webworm. Use a broom or rake to get them out of small trees.

Check on water needs of hanging baskets daily in the summer. Wind and sun dry them much more quickly than other containers.

Clean up fallen rose and peony leaves. They can harbor disease and insect pests over the winter if allowed to remain on the ground.

Mound soil over the lateral or brace roots of corn stalks for extra support against strong winds.

Pick summer squash and zucchini every day or two to keep the plants producing.

Hand pick bagworms from your evergreen and deciduous trees.

Remove old vegetable plants which have stopped producing to eliminate a shelter for insects and disease organisms.

Water the garden early in the day so plants can absorb the moisture before the hot sun dries the soil. Early watering also insures the foliage dries before night. Wet foliage at night increases susceptibility to fungus diseases.

Many herbs self-sow if the flowers are not removed. Dill produce seeds that fall around the parent plant and come up as volunteers the following spring.

To reduce the number of pests on your fruit tree for the coming year, pick up and destroy all fallen fruit.

Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) is used by many gardeners to protect cole crops from chewing caterpillars.

White flies are attracted to yellow, so use yellow sticky boards to reduce their populations.

Every weed that produces seed means more trouble next year. Control weeds before they go to seed.

August Blooming Perennial Flowers

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Are most of your early summer perennial flowers done blooming for the year? Wouldn't it be nice to have a selection of perennials that bloomed late in the summer? There are many attractive August blooming perennials available and many bloom up until

frost. Maybe next year you can add a selection of late summer blooming perennials to your flower garden.

Of course this list is not complete. It is just to get you started. Check garden books and catalogs for more late blooming perennials. With these new additions, plan on enjoying your perennial garden until the cold weather sets in.



Aster



Tall Sedum

COMMON NAME	COLOR	HEIGHT
Black Eyed Susan	Yellow	2-3 ft.
Tall Sedum	Pink, red, white	2-3 ft.
Lavender Cotton	Yellow	1 ft.
Goldenrod	Yellow	3 ft.
Meadow Rue	Lavender	3-5 ft.
Obedient Plant	Pink	2-4 ft.
Asters	Pink, red, purple	3-4 ft.
Turtlehead	Pink	3 ft.
Helen's Flower	Yellow	3 ft.
Hosta	Lavender	1-3 ft.
Gayfeather	Rose, purple, white	1-2 ft.

A Morning with Herbs

Pioneers Park Nature Center

Saturday, August 26th, 9:30-Noon

Explore the forms, smells, and uses of scented geraniums - the 2006 Herb of the Year

9:30: **Tour** of the Louise Evans Doole Herb Garden scented geraniums

10:00: **Workshop** - 'Scentual' Delights
make bath balms and scented waters

11:00: **Workshop** - Pelargoniums on the Palate
demonstrations, recipes and samples

Another exciting collaboration between Pioneers Park Nature Center and the Nebraska Herbal Society

Fee: \$5/Herb Society members*, \$8/non-members
Pre-payment required, registration deadline: August 21

* Please send membership fees (\$8/individual, \$10/family) directly to the Nebraska Herbal Society, P. O. Box 4493, Lincoln, NE 68504-0493 before registering at member rate.



Call 441-7895 to register

Mandevilla's Showy Flowers

Mandevilla is known for its showy flowers and there are about 100 species of this tropical woody vine. Most species over-winter only in the tropical South. In Nebraska they can be treated as annuals or grown indoors. They can be brought indoors before the first freeze and treated as a houseplant during the winter months. In the spring, mandevilla can be placed outside after the threat of freezing weather has passed. Mandevilla is great trellised in containers or in hanging baskets.

Indoors, mandevillas need bright indirect sunlight. Provide night temperatures of 60 to 65 degrees F and day temperatures above 70 degrees F. Plant in a mixture of equal parts peat moss, potting mix and sand. In spring and summer, fertilize every two weeks.



Mandevilla

Outdoors, grow mandevillas in partial shade. They need rich, well-drained soil. Provide a frame, trellis or stake for support. Pinch young plants to induce bushiness.

Since 45 to 50 degrees F is the minimum temperature that can be tolerated by mandevilla, plants should be moved indoors for the winter. Before bringing them indoors, examine them carefully for pests. Look under the leaves and on the plant stems for insects and their eggs. Remove any diseased or dead leaves by hand. Insect-infested plants

can be doused with a forceful spray of water to dislodge the pests, or you can use insecticidal soaps or other appropriate insecticides labeled for use on your plant. The most common pests are mealybugs, scale, whiteflies and spider mites.

Move the plants to a lighted location where the temperature is above 55 degrees F. Reduce the frequency of watering to coincide with the plant's rest periods induced by the cooler temperatures and reduced light.

In late winter or early spring before growth begins, prune by removing old, crowded stems and shortening others. Even if mandevilla is pruned almost to the ground, it will bloom the same summer on the new shoots, which develop from the base of the plants.

Source: Clemson University

Nasturtiums are Versatile Plant

The nasturtium is a versatile plant used for edging in flowerbeds or in window boxes, patio containers or hanging baskets. The abundant, colorful blooms are edible and can be cut for use as an elegant entree garnish or salad decoration. The leaves, which contain a good dose of vitamin C, can be used to add a peppery flavor to fresh salads.

'Tropaeolum minor', the scientific name for the nasturtium, comes from the Greek

word meaning "to twine," which is descriptive of some of the 50 species in this genus. Nasturtium was first found growing in Mexico and Peru where it was used instead of cress to flavor foods. It was brought to Europe in the 16th century and considered a symbol of conquest and victory in battle. Victorian women later used it in tussie mussies to ward off bad smells.

Nasturtiums come in three types: dwarf, semi-trailing and single flower climbing.

Dwarf types are bushy and compact and include the cultivars 'Alaska,' 'Empress of India,' 'Strawberries and Cream' and 'Whirlybird.' Semi-trailing types reach a length of two-to three-feet, making them ideal for hanging baskets. The single flowering climbing types like 'Jewel of Africa' send out six to eight foot runners that climb trellises like vines. Colors of this type are bright and range from yellow and orange to rose and crimson. Vines are strong and have fragrant flowers.

Nasturtium is one of the easiest flowers to grow from seed. The best flowering will be in full sun, but they will tolerate partial shade. Seeds can be sown directly in the garden beginning in late April. Nasturtiums are not choosy about their soil. Do not spoil them with rich, fertile soil and fertilizers



Semi-trailing Nasturtium

as this will only result in lush foliage and few blooms.

Source: Dr. Leonard Perry, Extension Professor, University of Vermont