

# August Blooming Perennial Flowers

Mary Jane Frogge  
Extension Associate,  
Lancaster County

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. Next year you can add a selection of late summer-blooming perennials to your flower garden.



Smooth Aster



Helenium



Swamp Milkweed



Sedum

Common name	Color	Height
Asters	Pink, blue, purple	3-4 ft.
Black-Eyed Susan	Yellow	2-3 ft.
Gayfeather	Rose, purple	1-2 ft.
Goldenrod	Yellow	3 ft.
Helenium	Yellow	3 ft.
Hosta	Lavender, white	1-3 ft.
Obedient Plant	Pink	2-4 ft.
Pitcher Sage	Blue	2-4 ft.
Sedum	Pink, red, white	2-3 ft.
Swamp Milkweed	Pink	2-4 ft.

Mary Jane Frogge, Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County

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Mary Jane Frogge, Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County

Soni Cochran, Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County



## GARDEN GUIDE THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH

Mary Jane Frogge, Extension Associate,  
Lancaster County

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.

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

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

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

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.

Hand pick bagworms from your evergreen and deciduous trees.

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

Do not add weeds with mature seed heads to the compost pile. Many weed seeds can remain viable and germinate next year when the compost is used.

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.

# Creating Reading Routines During the Summer Months

Jackie Steffen  
Extension Educator,  
Cedar County

One of the most effective ways to improve children's reading ability is by reading often and early to them. When summer rolls around, we may be tempted to ease up on academic expectations and the amount of quality time we spend reading with children or children spend reading on their own. It is natural to get distracted by the nice weather, summer to-do lists and the freedom from structured schedules.

## Benefits

There are many benefits to keeping the reading momentum going throughout the summer including improved fluency, increased vocabulary, expanded background knowledge and greater confidence are just a few.

How can you enjoy the beauty of summertime and still foster a love of reading?

## Here Are a Few Quick Tips

- **Make reading a part of your daily routine.** If nighttime read alouds do not fit into your summer schedule because you are staying outside and time slips away from you, consider changing the time of day you and your child read. Stories outside with the birds chirping and the cool morning air will start your day off with a close connection and rich, warm discussions. A shared reading experience after mealtimes is effective as well. Classroom teachers tend to

do classroom read alouds after lunch, maybe that is tradition that would work well for your setting. No matter what you decide is the perfect reading routine; remember to be intentional but flexible.

- **Encourage children to select books they are genuinely interested in and excited about.** Although reading books at grade level is desirable, reading choice should be the

story line. Book selection is crucial to developing an intrinsic joy and it also promotes independence. It is much easier for children to get in the "reading zone" when they are hearing or reading books by authors and in genres that are engaging to them.

- **Connect reading to family outings.**

If you are heading out on a bike ride, pack a couple books and decide on a special place to take a break and

or hatcheries to prepare for the trip or to extend learning after the visit. Listening to a family audiobook as you are traveling from destination to destination sparks conversations about a shared reading experience and will leave children anticipating the next time they get to travel and hear the "rest of the story." Sharing stories as a family can leave a lasting impression.

Remember reading authentic texts for meaning and pleasure should be emphasized above all this summer. There is a contagious energy about books that are read for enjoyment and strong connections and relationships are developed. The benefits to keeping the reading momentum going throughout the summer are phenomenal. Improved fluency, increased vocabulary, expanded background knowledge and greater confidence are just a few. Above all, summertime reading creates wonder, curiosity and the eagerness to want to discover more.



primary focus. Books should engage children through text, pictures and the

relax with a good story. If you are visiting an aquarium, consider reading books about fish

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Ideas for reading at home, visit <https://www.readingrockets.org/audience/parents>  
Visit <https://www.startwithabook.org/summer-reading-learning> to get additional suggestions for summer reading activities.  
To download fairy tale storybook guides to support literacy development, visit <https://child.unl.edu/nebraska-4-h-stem-reading-connections-program>