

Gardener's Corner

August 2026

Hard to believe, but we are nearing the end of the growing season. For some reason, it seems shorter this year—maybe the heat, maybe as we get older, it's hard to spend time in the garden.

The **Missouri Botanical Garden** has these tips and tasks for August. You shouldn't fertilize your roses after mid-August. Webworms are about, so watch for activity from them. Annuals and perennials should be deadheaded. And for a bloom of annuals before fall, now is the time to fertilize them.

Irises and daylilies can be divided now. Cold weather crops (beets lettuce, peas, radishes, spinach, etc.) can be sown now. Refrigerating spinach seeds a week before planting may help them germinate better. Divide irises and daylilies as needed. It is also a good time to plant broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower. Check trees for bagworms and manually remove them if found.

There is a good article in **Garden Design** entitled Companion Planting for Vegetables and Herbs. You can find it here: https://www.gardendesign.com/vegetables/companion-planting.html?utm_source=article-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=companion-planting-8-6-26

If you have black walnut trees, you may find it difficult to decide what will survive under them. This article from **Pennsylvania State University Extension** will help guide your planting under these and other juglone exuding trees. You can find the article, Landscaping and Gardening around Walnuts and Other Juglone Producing Plants at: <https://extension.psu.edu/landscaping-and-gardening-around-walnuts-and-other-juglone-producing-plants>. A video from **Garden Crossings** on YouTube also has some very good information on juglone and what to plant. It can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HINRKVdmpoY>

For those of you who grow coneflowers, they can have several problems that distort their blooms. Here is a YouTube video that describes anomalies in the flowers. From the **University of Illinois Extension**, the video, Weird looking coneflower flowers: Aster yellows and rosette mites, is at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HINRKVdmpoY>. **Pennsylvania State University Extension** also has a helpful article on Echinacea Diseases. Find it here: <https://extension.psu.edu/echinacea-diseases>

Hope you enjoy this cooler weather!