

The August HORT REPORT

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

- Water all plantings thoroughly unless rainfall has been adequate.
- The fall vegetable garden is planted now.
- Divide and replant spring blooming perennials.
- Irrigated warm-season lawns may be fertilized again.
- Hedges and shrubs can be pruned, if necessary, until mid-August.
- Young trees and shrubs may be fertilized again.
- Stop dead-heading roses by mid-August to help initiate winter hardiness.
- Brown patch disease of cool-season grasses can be a problem.
- Meet water requirements of turf.
- For areas being converted to tall fescue this fall, begin spraying glyphosate products in early-August.
- White grub damage can become visible this month. Apply appropriate soil insecticide if white grubs are a problem.
- Watch for a second generation of fall webworm in late August through early September.
- Pre-emergent herbicides for winter-annual weed control in warm-season grasses can be applied in late-August. Water in the product after application.

COUNTRY WISDOM

The wheat fields have been harvested... what greater pleasure than to view a rich field of wheat? Maybe the aroma as it is being cut! How elated is the farmer's heart, after many a hard day's toil, to see his crops harvested!?

Did you know? One bushel of wheat:

- Weighs about 60 pounds.
- Contains an estimated 1 million individual kernels.
- Makes 70 one-pound loaves of white bread OR 90 one-pound loaves of whole wheat bread.

SECOND THOUGHTS?

Have you planted in for the season and are wishing you had made better choices? Why not start now, while it is on your mind, making a list for next year's additions to your landscape. REMEMBER... we all make mistakes. Recognize them, learn from them, and then move on.

LOW MAINTENANCE FLOWERS YOU CAN'T KILL

Not everyone has the time or money to grow a picture-perfect garden, much less to keep one tidy and well groomed. Thankfully, there are a myriad of vibrant, low maintenance flowers that require almost no up-keep and simply refuse to be killed. Low maintenance flowers are usually drought and heat tolerant, easy to care for, and deer and rabbit resistant. Many thrive in a variety of soils and environments – some require as little effort as simply throwing a handful of seeds in the yard.

Here are 12 plants that will fill your garden with life and color, with minimal effort:

1. **MARIGOLD (*Tagetes patula*)** The marigold might take the honor for being the most drought-resistant, heat-tolerant plant in the garden. No matter how sweltering the dog days get, these vibrant pom-pom blooms survive and thrive. Hailing from the sunflower family, the warm-colored flowers bloom early and stick around for the whole summer. They make great companion plants for tomatoes, eggplant, peppers, and potatoes. They also help repel insects and pests. MY TIP... put several different colors in one area for a grand display!

Quick Facts:

- ZONE: 2-11
- SUN EXPOSURE: FULL SUN
- SOIL NEEDS: Fertile, Well-Draining

2. **RUSSIAN SAGE (*Perovskia atriplicifolia*)** In 1995 the Perennial Plant Association named this plant the “Perennial Plant of the Year”. Partly because it’s so drought tolerant and has hardly any disease or insect problems. It will attract butterflies and bees to your garden. It is fragrant and will repel pesky deer. The woody shrub can thrive in a wide variety of soil types, so you don’t have to have perfect conditions for it to look good.

Quick Facts:

- ZONE: 5-9
- SUN EXPOSURE: FULL SUN
- SOIL NEEDS: Medium to Dry, Well-Draining

3. **DAYLILY (*Hemerocallis*)** The daylily is a drought-tolerant, hardy, yet high impact perennial whose individual flowers, as its name suggests, last only a single day. This plant is rarely disease stricken and tolerates – sometimes even thrives on – neglect. It has the great foliage of an ornamental grass while also producing beautiful and colorful blooms. This plant provides an almost endless supply of blooms that keep coming all summer and they come in a wide variety of colors.

Quick Facts:

- ZONE: 4-9
- SUN EXPOSURE: FULL SUN to PARTIAL SHADE
- SOIL NEEDS: Slightly Moist, Well-Draining, High in Organic Matter

4. **MEXICAN SUNFLOWER (*Tithonia rotundifolia*)** The Mexican sunflower is not actually a member of the sunflower family. It loves hot and dry conditions. These hardy annuals are fast-growing, easy to sow, and deer resistant. It is a wonderful nectar rich flower so expect to see hummingbirds, butterflies, and other pollinators visiting your garden. They produce dozens of red-orange, daisy-like, blooms from mid-summer until autumn's first frost.

Quick Facts:

- ZONE: 2-11
- SUN EXPOSURE: FULL SUN
- SOIL NEEDS: Lean, Sandy, Rocky

5. **GOLDENROD (*Solidago speciosa*)** Known as a wildflower in meadows, Goldenrod thrives in a variety of conditions: moist, dry, hot, chilly, etc. It produces all over yellow florets – popular among pollinators – from late summer through fall.

Quick Facts:

- ZONE: 3-8
- SUN EXPOSURE: FULL SUN
- SOIL NEEDS: Average, Medium Moisture, Well-Draining

6. **COSMOS (*Cosmos bipinnatus*)** This annual is so easy to grow! Cousins of the marigold and daisy, cosmos are known and beloved for their impossible-to-kill nature and because they thrive in poor soil conditions. They bloom continuously during summer, inviting the pollinators in for a feast of nectar.

Quick Facts:

- ZONE: 5-10
- SUN EXPOSURE: FULL SUN
- SOIL NEEDS: Loamy, Sandy

7. **BUTTERFLY WEED (*Asclepias tuberosa*)** Butterfly Weed, called so because it is the only “host” plant for the Monarch butterflies, is known to be drought-tolerant and thrives in all types of conditions, be it woods, prairie, or dry garden beds. This clumping perennial is a major butterfly magnet, and the deer and rabbits aren't interested! This grows into a bush form packed with brilliant, fluffy, orange-to-yellow clusters.

Quick Facts:

- ZONE: 3-9
- SUN EXPOSURE: FULL SUN
- SOIL NEEDS: Well-Draining, Sandy

8. **TICKSEED (*Coreopsis*)** This perennial will do a great job in any condition with poor soil. Often grown as a wildflower, enveloping meadows, and fields in mass quantities of yellow and orange daisy-like flowers. It's drought

tolerance and ability to thrive in rocky, sandy soil makes it nearly impossible to kill.

Quick Facts:

- ZONE: 4-9
- SUN EXPOSURE: FULL SUN to PARTIAL SHADE
- SOIL NEEDS: Well-Draining, Moderate to Moist

9. **MOSS ROSE (*Portulaca grandiflora*)** A cross between a rose and a cactus, Moss Rose loves sunny, dry, hot desert conditions – the hotter and drier it is, the better. Punishing sunlight poses no threat, and watering is seldom necessary as it stores water in its fleshy leaves and stems. It produces colorful, cactus-like flowers and soft but spikey, succulent-type leaves. Even though it is an annual, it will often re-seed itself.

Quick Facts:

- ZONE: 2-11
- SUN EXPOSURE: FULL SUN
- SOIL NEEDS: Well-Draining, Sandy, Rocky

10. **SPIDER FLOWER (*Cleome hassleriana*)** Once you establish spider flower in your garden, you'll probably always have it. This annual is best when planted from seed. Just sprinkle them wherever you want an abundance of showy, white-to-lilac blooms.

Quick Facts:

- ZONE: 4-8
- SUN EXPOSURE: FULL SUN to PARTIAL SHADE
- SOIL NEEDS: Well-Draining, Sandy

11. **HENS & CHICKS (*Sempervivum*)** Gardeners love this perennial plant, closely related to the succulent family, not just for its unique foliage, but also for its ability to grow in sandy or rocky conditions, and in cool or hot temperatures. It grows very low to the ground until the main part of the plant (the hen) sends up a stout flower stalk in summer. Little offshoots (the chicks) will pop up all around the hen as the plant matures. Its leaves are soft shades of red, green, or blue.

Quick Facts:

- ZONE: 4-8
- SUN EXPOSURE: FULL SUN to PARTIAL SHADE
- SOIL NEEDS: Rocky, Sandy, Acidic

12. **YARROW (*Achillea millefolium*)** While other plants will fade in the hot, humid, dry summer, the drought-tolerant yarrow will just keep growing and looking great all the while! This perennial sometimes gets a bad rap for being too resilient, as it can be a difficult to stop it from spreading like wildfire. This is because the plant has rhizomes, which send off lateral shoots. Plant yarrow in your garden for ferny foliage and dainty clusters of white-to-red flowers.

Quick Facts:

- ZONE: 3-9
- SUN EXPOSURE: FULL SUN
- SOIL NEEDS: Dry to Medium, Well-Draining

COMMON GARDENING TERMS

There are so many “TERMS” out there in gardening land that I thought I would give you some background info to help you navigate your way.

This month we will cover A-C ...hope it helps!

- **ANNUALS:** Varieties that complete their life cycle in one year or less, requiring sowing every year. Annual flower varieties often bloom profusely and over a long period of time.
- **BIENNIALS:** Varieties of both flowers and vegetables, that complete their life cycle in two years, usually just showing leaf growth the first year and flowers the next.
- **BABY GREENS:** Young, leafy vegetables or herbs that are harvested at 2-4 inches tall.
- **BOLTING:** The condition of premature flowering in edible crops, often making the plant unpalatable.
- **BURPLESS CUCUMBER:** Cucumbers that do not produce, or produce very little, of a chemical called cucurbitacin. Cucurbitacin produces a slight bitter flavor, mainly concentrated in the skin, and causes minor indigestion in some people.
- **COLD CLIMATES:** Climates that experience freezing temperatures; generally, USDA Zones 9 and colder.
- **COLD FRAME:** A four (4) sided frame placed on the ground or in a garden bed that has a clear top. By design, it increases temperatures over the ambient temperature and is used for growing seedlings for transplant or for food crops, extending the harvest season.
- **COMPANION PLANTING:** Planting different plants together that benefit one another. For example, sowing a plant that attracts pollinators next to a plant that requires pollination. My BEST MASTER GARDENER TIP... plant basil next to your tomato plants and watch the bounty double!
- **COMPOST:** Organic matter often made from decomposed/broken down plant material. Compost can be used to replenish soil nutrients and introduce soil biology to a growing area or simply to reduce landfill waste.
- **COVER CROP:** Fast growing plants, usually grains and legumes, or grasses that are utilized for one or more of their soil enhancing qualities. These crops are usually worked into the soil or removed before they produce seed.
- **CROP:** A plant that is cultivated for harvest, like cutting flowers or vegetables.

- **CULTIVAR:** A species that was selected or bred by humans for a particular feature. Cultivars carry a specific name in addition to the scientific name and/or common name, e.g. “Brandywine”.

MIXING IT UP... THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

I like all plants together! ALL THE TIME! Mixing edibles and ornamentals of all sizes, shapes, and texture is my jam! I DO NOT adhere to the “boxing” style of gardening. I like to be free to grow whatever I like in whatever combinations I would like, wherever I want! I want my customers to know that it is OK to plant lettuce in your front landscape bed right next to the petunias! Whether you are an experienced gardener, a newcomer, or a regular customer, I want you to know that mixing herbs, vegetables, and fruits together with pretty ornamentals is not only perfectly acceptable but gives you the best of both worlds.

I truly believe that any available space is an opportunity for which you can tuck in a container with any of your favorite veggies and ornamentals. Growing vegetables in containers is a great solution for many who want to experience a bit of home-grown harvest, but do not have a yard or space for raised beds. Mixed foodscape containers are not just for small space gardeners. Even those with good-sized back yards may not have enough sunny space to get a great harvest. Mixed containers can be grown about anywhere the sun shines. Be it your patio, balcony, front yard, or even your driveway. No space needs to be wasted!

FABRIC GROW BAGS - These are a great solution for small space or patio gardeners – or pop-up veggie gardeners in any space – who want light weight container options that are easy to store when not in use. Grow bags fold flat for easy storage and are 100% frost-proof, so there is no lugging heavy pots indoors for the winter. They can be used for many seasons and their mobility means you can easily move these pots around to maximize sunlight. These pots provide a cost-effective way to grow. Anyone can head home from the garden center with a few folded grow bags, a couple of bags of potting soil, a few plants, and seeds, and be set up with a container garden in about an hour.

Matching plants that have the same sun and water needs is the key to success. Pair warm-season flowers with edibles, such as peppers with coleus, celosia, verbena, and vinca. Pair cool-season edibles, such as leafy greens, with alyssum, calendula, petunias, and violas.

Growing small yet diverse is the “NEW” big movement in gardening. Do not miss this opportunity to mix things up... make edible gardening both manageable & beautiful, no matter the space!

SMART POTS – Now... lets talk SMART POTS! SMART POTS... unfold → fill → and plant! The planter you grow in will change the growth and yield of your plant. (Excuse me... please read again).

SMART POT, an “Oklahoma Grown Company”, has created a growing revolution with their fabric aeration planter that causes root pruning and root enhancement. When a root tip reaches the SMART POT’S side, it does not circle, but rather locks into the fabric. This immediately causes branching and pruning of the roots. Side rooting will branch and prune again, and soon they will develop an exceedingly fibrous, healthy root mass two to three times greater than the root structure of plants grown in traditional planters.

SMART POTS help control temperature. While traditional planters hold heat inside, the SMART POT releases heat through its porous fabric keeping the roots cooler in the hot summer months. The SMART POT also aids in moisture distribution and movement. The porous fabric wicks moisture from the wetter areas to the drier areas. Even moisture distribution ensures each new root receives adequate moisture. The result is healthier growth and better yields.

The SMART POT has been a nursery industry staple for more than 30 years, initially developed for the tree industry. Both the product and the applications have evolved – but horticultural principals such as root pruning, developing a fibrous, non-circling root structure and heat release – remain key in how a container can increase yield. SMART POTS are made 100% in the USA and are always BPA FREE, LEAD FREE, and free of other heavy metal contaminants that could be harmful if ingested. I invite you to come in and let us show you the world of SMART POT containers today!

POLLINATORS... SUPPORT THE MOVEMENT!

THE KEY - Create buffet displays showcasing annuals, perennials, flowering vines, and shrubs that provide food and habitat sources from spring through fall. No matter the garden size, anyone can take part and create a pollinator paradise!

REMEMBER - Every THIRD bite of food, thank a bee or other pollinator. We believe that plants not only perform exceptionally in the garden, but also offer solutions to common gardening problems and support critical ecosystems.

BEE POPULATION DECLINE - This is a serious issue that we can all help to remedy by providing bees with food, water, and a habitat. Our garden seed supplier, Botanical Interests, has several versions to feed the pollinators. Try the “Save the Bees Flower Mix” and the “Bee Happy” seed collections. These will provide color and food for foraging bees from spring until fall. We BEE-lieve a small seed can make a big difference! Come in and let us show you our wildflower selection... ½ is planted in the fall and the other ½ planted in the spring. It will call in the pollinators from many miles away! The more pollinators you have the more fruits, vegetables, and flower blooms you will have.

EASY BEE WATERING STATION - A bee visits about 2,000 flowers on an average day. Imagine how thirsty they get on a hot day! They work very hard pollinating our vegetables and flowers. It's not always easy for them to find a clean,



shallow, water source from which to drink. Fresh, clean water keeps the bees hydrated, helps to cool them in warm weather, and is used to dissolve crystalized honey when producing larva food. Providing a bee watering station near your flowers and vegetables is easy!

Supplies:

- A clean shallow basin, like a saucer or dish.
- Marbles or small rocks.
- Fresh water.

Directions:

1. First, fill shallow basin with rocks or marbles, spreading material evenly to avoid deeper sections of water. Bees can drown in water that is too deep.
2. Next, fill your container with water.
3. Place the bee water garden near varieties that attract bees, including: Bachelor's Buttons, Bee Balm, Calendula, Cosmos, Echinacea, Hyssop, Larkspur, Milkweed, Morning Glories, Poppies, Rudbeckia, Salvia, Sunflowers, and Zinnias.
4. Keep your bee water garden out of the direct sun. Clean and refill often.

ATTRACTING BEES TO THE GARDEN

The following tips will help you create a beautiful garden that is helpful to bees and other beneficial insects.

Tips for Attracting Bees to your Garden:

- **Create Diversity and Color:** Some creatures may be color blind, but not bees. The more color and wider variety of flowers in your garden, the better.
- **Use Native Plants:** Native bees will be most attracted to native plants that they are familiar with. Mix a few in with your favorite ornamentals.
- **Plant Flowers in Clusters:** Large groupings of flowers (instead of sporadically spaced single plants) attract more bees. Even if you only have a small garden area or a few containers to plant in, it will be beneficial to local foraging bees.
- **Plan for a Succession of Blooms:** Plant some flowers that bloom in the spring, some in summer, and some in fall. Doing so will provide food for the bees over a long period of time.
- **Plant in Sunny Areas:** Bees prefer to forage in sunny, protected areas where they won't be bombarded by wind.

- **Put Flowers in the Vegetable Garden:** If you intersperse some flowers that bees love with your veggies, it will help increase the pollination of your vegetables for a better crop.
- **Allow some Vegetables and Herbs to Bolt:** Leaving a few vegetables and herbs in the garden during the fall will allow them to flower and provide late season food for bees.
- **Limit Pesticides:** Use non-toxic forms of pest control. Even organic pesticides may kill beneficial insects like bees and butterflies.