

August Monthly Reminders



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES

Cooperative
Extension

Pima County - Master Gardener Program

Planting

- Seeds of bush beans, cowpeas, corn, snap peas, radish, kale, beets, and turnips may be planted this month.
- Plan now to plant a shade tree in September or October. Visit [Trees for Tucson](#) on the web for information on discounted shade trees.
- Start broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, and brussels sprouts in trays to transplant in October.

Fertilizing

- For lemons, and limes apply final 3rd of 3 annual feedings in August-September (Refer to *Citrus Fertilization Chart for Arizona* [AZ1671](#)). If citrus trees are not growing properly, the problem could be that soil or mulch has washed in and around the trunk. Pull back any soil away from the trunk and keep it away. If your citrus fruit or pomegranates are splitting, they may be getting too much water. Adjust your watering frequency, but not the duration.
- Continue fertilizing flowers, vegetables, and lawns that may be nutrient-depleted from the monsoon rains. If plants turn a pale green or have reduced growth, flowering, or fruiting, they probably need to be fertilized (Refer to *Fertilizing Home Gardens in Arizona* [AZ1020](#)).
- Prepare garden beds for fall planting by adding aged compost and/or composted steer manure.

Watering

- Adjust irrigation based on the rains. Trees and large cacti and succulents may need deep soaking if rains are sparse.

Maintenance

- If a plant dies suddenly with no explanation, this could be due to grubs. Dig into the soil—these appear as large, fat worms.
- It will be too hot now for tomatoes to set fruit. Prune tomatoes by two-thirds for a second, fall harvest.
- Dethatch lawns early this month to allow time for the grass to recover before fall. Thatch is an accumulation of dead grass plants and roots that covers the soil and forms a dense mat that restricts the movement of water and fertilizer. Take a plug out of the lawn and check the depth of the spongy thatch layer over the soil. If this layer is one-half inch or thicker, it should be removed with a steel tine lawn rake or power dethatcher.

- Wait to replace dead plants. October is the best time to do this. The weather then is cooler but the soil is still warm, ideal conditions for growing new roots. Remove dead plants now, and be ready to plant when the weather breaks this fall.
- Avoid heavy pruning of most trees and shrubs at this time of year. Removing leafy growth opens the center of the plant to direct sunlight. This can cause a scorch of lower leaves, branches, and trunk not used to exposure to direct sunlight. Wait until winter to perform any heavy pruning jobs. Eucalyptus and native trees, such as mesquite and palo verde, should be pruned now because they heal better during the heat of the summer.
- Keep checking plants for signs of water stress and sunburn.

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