

AUGUST - Jobs to Do

Flower Garden:

- Prune **Wisteria** to control the growth and encourage flowering for next year, cutting back the new whip-like shoots so that each is left with 5 to 7 sets of leaves, to allow them to mature in time for autumn;
- Use Bayer Fruit & Veg Disease Control, Systhane Bayer Fungus Fighter or Vitax Bordeaux Mix to guard against **powdery mildew**;
- Stop **earwigs** damaging the petals of Dahlias and Chrysanths by trapping them in upturned pots on canes loosely packed with straw or shredded newspaper; otherwise, Maxicrop with Iron sprayed on the leaves seems to work for Dahlias;
- Use Provado Vine Weevil Killer against **vine weevils** in container plants, which will be laying their eggs now.
- Clip **Lavender** hedges back to new growth, not old wood, after flowering to stop plants from becoming leggy, but leave the seed heads if you want to encourage goldfinches;
- Liquid-feed flowering **containers** every 2 weeks;
- As your **Penstemon** flowers fade, cut them back to just above a leaf to encourage more flowers;
- Prune C**limbing Roses** and **Rambling Roses** once they've finished flowering (unless they are repeat-flowerers, in which case, leave them);
- Take **Geranium** (Pelargonium) and **Fuchsia** cuttings and keep in the greenhouse or on a well-lit windowsill – these should root in about 4 weeks (hopefully, you will do some extra for the Plant Stall at our Autumn Show);
- Take **cuttings** of shrubs/plants such as Penstemon, Helianthemum, Lavatera, Hebe, Weigelia, and Lavender and bring any excess to our Autumn Show for the plant stall;
- Order **Spring-flowering bulbs** for planting in the Autumn.

Vegetable Garden:

- Sow **Coriander** and **Parsley** seeds in pots or under cover for a plentiful supply over winter.
- Sow **Beetroot, Calabrese, Oriental Greens, Spring Cabbages, Carrots, Peas, Florence Fennel, Lettuces, Spring Onions, Radishes, Rocket** and **Spinach**;
- Harvest **Garlic, Onions** and **Shallots** once the lower leaves start to turn yellow, but don't bend over the tops as this will encourage rotting at the top of the bulb. Dry them outside if it's dry and sunny, otherwise cover with a cloche or dry in the greenhouse;

- Raise developing **Squashes** and **Pumpkins** off the ground with a tile or brick to stop them rotting and help the fruits ripen; Limit the fruits on a **Squash** plant to about three, but make sure these fruits are established before pinching out the surplus;
- Liquid-feed **Tomatoes**, **Sweetcorn**, **Peppers, Cucumbers** and **Aubergines** once fruits start forming with a high-potash fertiliser such as Tomato fertiliser;
- Pinch out the top of **Tomato** plants to concentrate the growth into the fruit that has already formed and remove leaves from lower third of plants to increase air circulation. Aim to leave 5 or 6 trusses of fruit per plant;
- Watch out for **blight** (brown blotches on the leave) on **Potatoes** and **Tomatoes**. Burn or bin affected leaves, to stop blight spreading to other plants, especially if these are grown on an allotment, and spray plants with a fungicide such as Bordeaux mixture or Fruit & Vegetable Disease Control (Bayer) (available at the Trading Centre) every 2 weeks if the weather is warm and damp;
- Pinch out the tips of your **Runner Bean** plants once they reach the top of their support to encourage side-shooting and more beans at a manageable height for picking;
- Check for cabbage white butterfly eggs under **Brassica** leaves and squash any that you find.

Fruit:

- Once **Blackcurrants** have produced fruit, start pruning: stems that have fruited should be cut down to the point where new shoots are starting to sprout. Aim to remove no more than 1 stem in 3;
- Cut out the stems of summer-fruiting **Raspberries** that have finished fruiting – cut them off at just above ground level. Tie in the new canes to supports, as these will bear fruit next year.

Lawn:

- If you're planning on laying a new lawn this autumn, prepare the area now to give it time to settle. This also allows weeds to germinate so you can clear the area thoroughly before planting;
- Switch from Spring and Summer feeds to an Autumn Lawn feed to encourage healthy root growth;
- Recut any lawn edges if needed.