



AUGUST

TO-DO LIST

- *Water, water everywhere. Especially water new trees and shrubs that will be under stress and at risk from the heat; they need to be watered regularly during the first year.*
- *Shallow-rooted rhodos and azaleas are also vulnerable to drought this month. Don't allow them to go thirsty.*
- *Water tomatoes without getting the leaves wet to prevent fungal disease. Cover plants in exposed areas and spray with copper sulphate to prevent late-season blight.*
- *Make arrangements to have your pots watered if you go away on holiday. Or move them into the shade, which will slow growth and considerably reduce water loss. Especially look after valuable maples or tender potted shrubs that you treasure.*
- *Check out ornamental grasses. See them at their peak this month.*
- *Cool-season grass, like Calamagrostis × acutiflora 'Karl Foerster', will go dormant in the heat but will still look good and can be left right through winter.*
- *Take pelargonium cuttings. They will easily root in 4-inch pots.*
- *Hardy fuchsias can be easily propagated at this time by taking softwood cuttings.*
- *Sow lettuce and radishes for fall use. Sow broccoli, spinach, green onions, kohlrabi, turnips, swiss chard, cabbage, Brussels sprouts and cauliflower for winter and spring use.*
- *Cut back raspberry canes that produced fruit. Leave younger canes, which will be slightly green; they will bear next year's fruit.*
- *Harvest honey figs or find a friend who grows them and beg for a taste. Mmm, so delicious.*
- *Plant autumn-flowering crocuses (Colchicum) 4 inches (10 cm) deep, and mark the spot so you don't accidentally hoe out the flowers when they emerge.*