

Gardening Tips for August

Pull weeds as soon as you notice them, before they go to seed in the garden. This will help reduce overwintering weeds that can wreak havoc next year.

Remove spent flowers (deadhead) on annuals, roses and perennials. Many will reward you with more blooms that continue well into fall.

Certain flowers are good candidates for drying including hydrangea blossoms, globe amaranth, celosia, straw flowers and ornamental grasses. Harvest them when they are dry in the morning but before noon when temperatures begin to get hot. With annual flowers, select those that are not fully open.

Once you cut the stems, strip all the leaves and remove any damaged parts of the flower.

Store them in a dry, dark, warm place, preferably one with good air circulation.

Depending on the type of flower, it may take two to three weeks before they are completely dry.

You can also hang them upside down to dry, or in a vase without water.

Once they dry completely, the blooms should last for years, although the colors

Prune and remove dead branches on shrubs and small trees.

Keep new plantings (planted within the past six months) of flowers, shrubs and trees watered during hot, dry spells.

Apply a fresh layer of mulch (1 to 2 inches thick) after you weed. This will help the soil maintain moisture and reduce future weed crops.

Have your soil tested. A simple soil test can help you determine which nutrients may be lacking and what you need to add (according to what you are growing.) in the way of amendments to ensure your plants will thrive.

Order spring flowering bulbs like daffodils and tulips. Most companies will ship them to you at the appropriate time in the fall. The soil temperature should be 60 F or cooler

Start seeds for fall crops including spinach, lettuce and greens. Many of these will grow well into winter and tolerate light frost.

In Celebration of Alabama's 200th birthday, we encourage everyone to plant trees or plants that are from our native area!

Native Plants for Alabama

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Family</u>	<u>Genus</u>
<u>Acalypha gracilens</u>	Slender Three Seed Mercury; Short Stalk Copperleaf	<u>EUPHORBIACEAE</u>
<u>Acalypha rhomboidea</u>	Common Three Seed Mercury; Common Copperleaf; Rhombic Copperleaf	<u>EUPHORBIACEAE</u>
<u>Acer leucoderme</u>	Chalk Maple; Pale Maple	<u>ACERACEAE</u>
<u>Acer negundo</u>	Box Elder; Ash Leaf Maple	<u>ACERACEAE</u>
<u>Acer rubrum var. drummondii</u>	Drummond's Maple; Swamp Red Maple	<u>ACERACEAE</u>
<u>Acer rubrum var. rubrum</u>	Red Maple	<u>ACERACEAE</u>
<u>Acer saccharum</u>	Sugar Maple	<u>ACERACEAE</u>
<u>Acmella repens</u>	Creeping Spotflower; Opposite Leaf Spotflower	<u>ASTERACEAE</u>
<u>Actaea racemosa</u>	Common Black Cohosh; Early Black Cohosh; Black Bugbane	<u>RANUNCULACEAE</u>
<u>Adiantum capillus-veneris</u>	Southern Maidenhair Fern; Venus' Hair Fern	<u>PTERIDACEAE</u>
<u>Adiantum pedatum</u>	Northern Maidenhair Fern Common Maidenhair Fern; American Maidenhair	<u>PTERIDACEAE</u>
<u>Aesculus parviflora</u>	Bottlebrush Buckeye	<u>HIPPOCASTANACEAE</u>
<u>Aesculus pavia</u>	Red Buckeye	<u>HIPPOCASTANACEAE</u>
<u>Agalinis decemloba</u>	Ten Lobe False Foxglove	<u>OROBANCHACEAE</u>
<u>Agalinis purpurea</u>	Purple False Foxglove; Large Purple Gerardia	<u>OROBANCHACEAE</u>
<u>Agalinis tenuifolia var. tenuifolia</u>	Slender Leaf False Foxglove	<u>OROBANCHACEAE</u>
<u>Ageratina altissima</u>	Common White Snakeroot; Common Milk Poison	<u>ASTERACEAE</u>
<u>Ageratina aromatica</u>	Lesser Snakeroot; Small Leaf White Snakeroot; Wild Hoarhound	<u>ASTERACEAE</u>

<u>Agrimonia microcarpa</u>	Low Agrimony; Small Fruit Groovebur; Small Fruit Agrimony	<u>ROSACEAE</u>
<u>Agrimonia rostellata</u>	Woodland Agrimony; Beaked Agrimony; Beaked Groovebur	<u>ROSACEAE</u>
<u>Agrostis eliottiana</u>	Elliott's Bentgrass; Southern Bentgrass; Elliott's Bent	<u>POACEAE</u>
<u>Agrostis perennans</u>	Autumn Bentgrass; Upland Bent; Autumn Bent	<u>POACEAE</u>
<u>Ajuga reptans</u>	Carpet Bugle; Bugleweed; Blue Bugle	<u>LAMIACEAE</u>
<u>Albizia julibrissin</u>	Silktree; Mimosa	<u>FABACEAE</u>
<u>Alisma subcordatum</u>	American Water Plantain; Southern Water Plantain	<u>ALISMATACEAE</u>