

Suburban Gardener

August Gardens Reward For Earlier Efforts

By BETTY FRANKEL  
Special Writer

Early goldenrods coming into bloom along the roadsides are a reminder that summer has passed the mid-point and is edging on toward fall. There are still many weeks of summer left, however, and this is the time to sit back and enjoy the fruits of earlier labors.

Annuals are finally fulfilling their promise of masses of bloom. Bright strips of orange and yellow marigolds, spreading pools of vivid pink petunias, and zinnias, alyssum, calendula, snap dragons and so many others are reaching the peak of their perfection.

Keep faded flowers picked from annuals to encourage continued blooming. If your annuals still look sparse and leave something to be desired give them a boost with a dose of a quick-acting water soluble fertilizer. Avoid using one that is high in nitrogen. This will force out leafy growth at the expense of flowers. Instead use one that is high in phosphorus.

IF PETUNIAS have gotten long and lanky they can be sheared back. This treatment

seems rather drastic, but in a week or two they will be blooming again and the plants will be bushier and more compact. Shearing works on sweet alyssum, annual phlox and violas, too.

Vegetable gardens are yielding their harvest now. A "hill" or two of yellow summer squash or green zucchini produces an amazing abundance. Keep the squash picked and the plants keep on producing. These vegetables are at their best when they are picked about six inches long. If you miss a small squash hidden beneath the large leaves, in a few days it has grown to huge proportions. It is still good to eat, though, just seedier and not quite so crisp and tender.

Pick lima beans while they are still green. Pick green beans while they are still small. For a delectable treat, then cook them quickly, just until they are tender but still rather crisp.

Keep a mulch around tomatoes so weeds won't grow and moisture will be conserved. Black vinyl sheeting is good and the experts say the black absorbs heat and helps the tomatoes ripen more quickly. This is good for peppers and eggplant, too.

PERENNIAL gardens often experience a lull at this season. If your perennial beds are looking a little drab, you can buy a few container-grown plants to fill in the bare spots. Among the perennials blooming at this season are phlox in many shades of pink and rose, red and white. They are easy to transplant, even in full bloom. Just give them lots of water after transplanting. Look, also, for late-blooming varieties of daylilies. A clump or two of these could brighten up the garden. Rudbeckias, or cone flowers, are just beginning their season of bloom.

Also, there are perennial

asters, either low cushion mounds of pink or mauve or purple or tall kinds known as Michaelmas Daisies. Put the latter in the back of the garden. They can reach over four feet in height and tend to sprawl.

Early chrysanthemums are coming into bloom. Earliest to bloom are the "cushion" mums. These form low spreading masses of bloom, generally in pastel colors. They are good for the foreground or as an accent in front of shrubbery or try them in a pot on the patio.

To keep the roses blooming for another couple of months keep up the regular spray program on them. This is the best time to prune climbing roses. Trim back long waving canes.

THIS IS the time to replant iris, oriental poppies and bleeding heart. A spading fork is the easiest tool to use for digging clumps of perennials. When transplanting iris check the rhizomes for borers and for rot. Cut off any damaged or diseased parts and dust the entire surfaces with sulphur. It is a good idea to expose the rhizomes to the sun for a few hours before planting.

Plant a few rhizomes in a cluster to make a nice sized clump. Make a shallow hole and place the rhizomes on a saddle of soil so they are near the surface. Spread the roots down around the saddle so they are deeper. Iris like an alkaline soil so work a little bone meal into the soil around the roots.

Oriental poppies have a long fleshy rather brittle tap-root. When transplanting them care must be taken not to damage the root. At this season they are dormant and the leaves have yellowed and died down. Soon a new rosette of leaves will grow which will remain green all winter.

Plant bulbs of madonna lilies for bloom next spring. They should be planted as early as possible. Plant them so that the tops of the bulbs are only two inches below the surface, since they need shallow planting.

For "something different" plant a few bulbs of colchicums and autumn crocus. A clump of the pale mauve crocus flowers are a pleasant surprise blooming in front of the shrubbery in early fall.

Sow seeds of pansies, English daisies and forget-me-nots for bloom next year.

Pick strawflowers and other everlasting flowers for winter bouquets. Pick them just before they are fully open and hang upside down in loose bunches in a dark dry place.

Other garden flowers and wild flowers, too, can be picked and dried in this manner or dried using silica crystals. It is nice to capture a bit of mid-summer bloom to enjoy next winter.



BIG CHANGE--This basement really needed home improvement help. In fact it got a complete overhaul--new suspended ceiling, walls and floor. To reduce maintenance to the minimum, washable paneling was selected for the ceiling and walls.



Patio Deck Adds Charm

A patio adds a charming party room, living room or playroom to a home, simply through building a deck of rugged wood alongside the house.

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Use Systemics To Battle Fungus

Systemic fungicides have helped plant doctors control many diseases of turf-grasses, according to Michigan State University.

Dollar spot is a common fungus disease of golf course greens, and to control it the greens had to be sprayed once every two weeks throughout the season.

Now, however, systemic fungicides provide control with one spray a month because the chemical is inside the plants and isn't washed away or lost during mowing.

SYSTEMICS also provides us with a much needed answer to striped smut. This fungus disease is systemic in nature, so the old contact fungicides didn't work at all. Before systemics came along, an outbreak of striped smut meant replacing affected turf areas, MSU experts say.

Then benomyl came along. Dr. Joseph M. Vargas, MSU plant pathologist, evaluated the effectiveness of the compound for controlling striped smut, and has published recommendations for using the chemical to control outbreaks of the disease.

"Systemic fungicides have helped tremendously, but these chemicals may have drawbacks just like the compounds they are replacing," says Vargas.

He cites the disease powdery mildew as one example. "For about a year and a half we got good powdery mildew control using a systemic fungicide, then the fungus developed resistance to the chemical and we were right back where we started," Vargas says.

"At least we learned something, though," he notes. "The systemics are very specific in action, affecting only one vital system of the disease-causing organisms."

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7'-85"	—	—	—	—	—	—
8'-99"	1.38	1.95	2.37	3.33	2.45	—
10'-129"	1.57	2.44	3.20	4.30	3.07	—
12'-157"	2.23	3.58	4.40	5.35	3.68	—
14'-183"	2.63	4.01	5.25	5.99	4.29	—
16'-230"	3.44	4.44	5.92	6.88	5.14	—

SIZE	INT.	EXT.	P.C.	25-UP
1/4 4x8	4.39	4.79	—	—
3/8	5.89	6.29	3.19	3.09
1/2	7.39	7.99	3.29	3.19
5/8	8.69	9.39	3.59	3.49
3/4	9.59	10.45	5.59	5.49

CLEAR HEART	6	8	10	12	14
1x4	.93	1.36	1.70	2.05	2.39
1x6	1.49	2.18	2.72	3.27	3.81
1x12	3.06	4.49	5.61	6.73	7.85
2x4	2.26	3.31	4.14	4.97	5.80
2x6	3.39	4.97	6.22	7.46	8.70

	6	8	10	12	14
1x4	.63	.92	1.15	1.39	1.62
1x6	.95	1.39	1.73	2.08	2.43
2x4	1.24	1.82	2.27	2.73	3.18
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