



August Grounds Tips

Garden Health



A very important element to keep your garden thriving is, to keep it clean. Continue to remove spent blossoms and fruit/vegetables, as your plants finish producing. Pick up fallen fruit daily to prevent attracting animals and disease to your garden. Decaying fruit and plant parts can attract pests and diseases, allowing them to breed and spread.

Composting supports this effort and if you have the space (and time), why not start a compost pile. If you are already composting, add a little water this time of year as compost piles dry out faster. Moisture and oxygen are necessary to keep the organism alive. For more information and some free classes http://cesantaclara.ucanr.edu/Home_Composting_Education/

Turf Care

The work you do in August will benefit your lawn into the fall and winter. Spend time in the mornings or evenings taking care of your lawn to keep it healthy while also avoiding the midday summer heat. Here are a few things to do:

1. As always, pull weeds when you notice them. Weeds will just steal water and nutrients from the grass you want to keep alive.
2. Mow your lawn using the highest mower setting possible. Mowing the grass longer helps provide shade to the blades and also helps the lawn retain moisture.
3. Water your lawn up to four times per week. Water in the early morning or late evening so the majority of the water reaches the roots rather than evaporates in the hot summer air. Also, programming 2-3 irrigation cycles through the night will also help reduce water runoff which is such a waste.



Authors: Mary Nolan & Ryan Cheers

marynol@stanford.edu

rcheers@stanford.edu