



August-Named in honor of Augustus Caesar. He chose this month to take his name rather than his birth month (February)- which was traditional - as a mark of honor to the defeated Queen Cleopatra the last ruler of Egypt, this being her birth month.



Monthly - To do's

- *Make sure your plantings are getting adequate water, the high temperatures are very stressful to plants. Be sure and set irrigation watering schedules appropriately, schedules that were adequate earlier in the year may not be so when temperatures reach over 100.*
- *Check trees and shrubs for signs of bag worms. These insects spin small inverted funnel shaped nests. They hang from branches and sometimes are hard to see. These small silk nests are spun of defoliated plant material and harbor voracious leaf eating insects. They can be "picked off" or sprayed for control.*

Handling the heat of late summer

This time of year your landscape feels the affects of extreme heat just as we do. Plant growth will slow, plants may brown or bleach due to loss of moisture or sun scalding and many annuals will reach the end of the line and will become unattractive, leggy and stop blooming. They are often removed and replaced with new annuals which will last now until the late fall.

Trees and shrubs that are marginally adapting to our area like Japanese Maples will show signs of leaf burn even if in the shade that they desire. This is unavoidable in this heat and will not damage the tree but make it a bit unsightly. Oaks and other native trees will shed leaves if water is in short supply. Dropping leaves is a form of self preservation to avoid any further water trans- evaporation(water loss) through the leaves. These native trees normally will recover.

You can check your turf for adequate water by observing the color and shape of the grass blades. Curling and an off shade of green are a sign the grass is not getting enough water. Check beds by actually feeling the soil to see if it is damp below the mulch layer. Often with drip irrigation the mulch layer will be very dry as the water has soaked down into the soil as intended.

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FACT: Mulch can save water use in the landscape by reducing water evaporation and soil temperatures. Acting as a layer of insulation mulch will make plants healthier and save you money on your water bill. 2-3 inches is a typical application of mulch. Hardwood Mulch will last longer than softwoods like pine and actually binds together better to stay where you put. Typically Mulch is applied twice a year.