

Reminders and tips for August

- Make sure birds and other wildlife have fresh water and keep ponds topped up
- Water plants that need it regularly
- Collect ripened seeds from plants you wish to propagate
- Trim hedges
- Prune rambler roses after flowering
- Trim lavender after flowers have faded
- Layer rhododendrons, pinks and clematis
- Protect dahlias and chrysanthemums from earwigs
- Feed and water all plants in containers
- Take cuttings from tender perennials such as pelargoniums and fuchsias
- Mow less frequently if the weather is hot and dry
- Lift and dry onions
- Cut and dry herbs for winter use
- Prop up heavily laden branches of fruit trees
- Summer prune gooseberries and redcurrants
- Water and feed tomatoes regularly and remove yellowed leaves
- Plant new strawberry plants and keep them well watered
- Harvest the first apples and pears
- Start potted cyclamen and freesias into growth
- Finish summer pruning apples and pears and other fruit trees
- Complete summer pruning of wisteria
- Plant colchicums for autumn flowering