

President's Corner – August 2022

We are officially in the dog days (July 3rd to August 11th)—the hottest days of summer. So how do we keep our gardens in good shape?

Many Tips and Tasks for this month from the **Missouri Botanical Garden** are designed to help you keep your flowers blooming and also to anticipate next year's garden. If your annuals are looking droopy and worn out, give them a hard cut back and some fertilizer to coax new blooms. Don't forget to keep deadheading those perennials to encourage another bloom or two. August is the last time to prune and shape your hedges.

You can divide oriental poppies and bearded iris now. When replanting the iris, make certain the tops of the rhizomes are just above ground level. Don't forget to order spring bulbs so they will be ready to plant this fall.

This is the time of year we are all concerned when plants develop that powdery mildew especially on roses and phlox. While it is not usually harmful, it is unattractive and there are some methods to help prevent it. You can check out these powdery mildew management hints from the **Missouri Botanical Garden** here: <https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/gardens-gardening/your-garden/help-for-the-home-gardener/advice-tips-resources/pests-and-problems/diseases/powdery-mildew/powdery-mildew-outdoors.aspx>

Another problem which may be specific to your tomatoes is blossom rot. Two sources of information to help combat this can be found here: <https://www.hgtv.com/outdoors/flowers-and-plants/vegetables/tomato-blossom-end-rot> and <https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/gardens-gardening/your-garden/help-for-the-home-gardener/advice-tips-resources/pests-and-problems/environmental/blossom-end-rot/blossom-end-rot-of-tomato-and-pepper.aspx>

For you readers, there is a new book by Laura J. Martin, an environmental historian, that may be of interest. Published in mid-May, **Wild by Design: The Rise of Ecological Restoration Hardcover**, traces the early interest in wildflower conservation to modern ecology. If you are interested, here is a review of this new book: <https://www.ecolandscaping.org/06/resources/book-reviews/wild-by-design/>

On those days when it is too hot to garden, some virtual programs that may be of interest to you are:

August 11, 11 a.m. – noon. The **University of Illinois Extension** is presenting **Cover Crops and Gardens/Everyday Environment**. You can register here:

<https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=26006>

August 16, 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. The **University of Illinois Extension** is presenting **Late Summer and Fall Blooming Plants**. Register at:

<https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=25787>

August 24, 12 p. m. – 1 p.m. **Yard and Garden Cleanup with Diseases and Insects in Mind** will be presented by the **University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension**. Not only will you learn about garden and yard clean up, but also get a better understanding of how plant diseases and insects overwinter.

Register here at: https://uwmadison.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_6ZDtExNZSLiG-3eMZSKyAA