

Gardener's Corner

August 2025

What a summer! It's been so dangerously hot and humid that getting out into the garden has been tricky, at best. On the other hand, I've had a bumper crop of lemon-yellow cucumbers (see picture below) and grape tomatoes—so many that they are being given to friends.

From the **Missouri Botanical Garden** this month: Roses should not be fertilized after mid-August, or 6-8 weeks before the average first frost date. Time to watch for fall webworms and bagworms. These should now be removed from trees manually or pruned to control them. Hedges can be lightly pruned.

Don't forget to deadhead annuals and perennials. Irises and daylilies can be divided now. You can also sow cool weather vegetables such as beets, kohlrabi, lettuce, mustard, peas, radishes, spinach, and turnips. Refrigerating spinach seeds for a week before planting may help them germinate.

If you grow or have tried to grow lavender, here are tips to maintain these plants. An article from **Country Living** discusses varieties that are hardy enough to grow in our gardens. It also gives hints on how to grow lavender. The article is entitled *How to Grow and Care for Lavender Plants* and you can find it at this website:

https://www.countryliving.com/gardening/a43358374/lavender-grow-guide/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=mgu_ga_clv_md_pmx_hybrid_mix_us_18605681929&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=18605691328&gbraid=0AAAAACq-IrtKATxugwZ_NajVFa8FCAUc&gclid=CjwKCAjwqKzEBhANEiwAeQaPVZpVfCHLmYf0mU3Q-mCx-tTRNxfn22_k65x7vzYUHZkAJEHIepIGxoCIEMQAvD_BwE

Another article describes the importance of and how and when to prune your lavender. You can find it in an article, *A Beginner's Guide to Pruning Lavender*, at **Garden Design**. Here is the website. https://www.gardendesign.com/how-to/prune-lavender.html?utm_source=article-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=How-to-Prune-Lavender-7-31-25

Finally, in **The Spruce** is an article entitled 20 Companion Plants That Will Help Your Lavender Thrive This Season. You can find it at: <https://www.thespruce.com/lavender-companion-plants-8575030>.

Some virtual programs of interest in August are the following:

Tuesday, August 5, 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. *Seed Saving and Plant Breeding* presented by **Seed St. Louis** through the **St. Louis County Library**, Director of Education Dean Gunderson will cover the easiest crops to save seeds, the basics of saving seeds and how to select your own varieties. Register at:
<https://slcl.events.mylibrary.digital/event?id=194926>

Tuesday, August 19, 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. *Crop Rotation: Building Resilient Gardens* offered by the **University of Illinois Extension**. Learn how crop rotation can improve a garden's soil health, reduce pests and diseases, and even boost overall productivity. This presentation will cover techniques for rotating plant families, even in small spaces like raised beds or containers. Register at:
<https://registration.extension.illinois.edu/start/four-seasons-gardening-webinar-crop-rotation-building-resilient-gardens-aug-19>

Thursday, August 21 – noon to 1:00 p.m. *Grow Your Own Groceries: Carrots* offered by the **University of Arkansas Extension**. Learn how to grow healthy, nutritious food in your own backyard and get some tips for new ways to cook and prepare your harvest. In this presentation, you will learn how to grow and cook with carrots. Register at:
<https://uada.zoom.us/meeting/register/Ace6zU5TQxWJC6cvL-Dlag#/registration>



Lemon Yellow cucumbers