

Buzz Around the Garden during August

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Each issue from now on we will be featuring the current month's gardening comments, we hope it will be useful.

August is a month to enjoy your garden and the fruits of your labours. Chores this month can be kept to a minimum. If you have planted lots of annuals the August garden can be a riot of colour, but gardens relying on colour from shrubs, roses and perennials can sometimes look a little past their sell by date as the vivid colours of autumn have not arrived

but summer blooms are exhausted. If this is the case look around at which plants are looking good in other people's gardens and plan to include them next year. Must have shrubs for August include Buddleja, Lavatera and Hydrangeas, especially Hydrangea paniculata 'grandiflora' with its large, white, lacy, cone shaped flower heads.

In line with recent trends August is bound to be a record breaking month weather wise. Whether or not that is because it's going to be the hottest, the coldest, the wettest, the windiest, the frostiest..... I am not going to speculate.

August notes:

If you are going on



holiday do arrange for you baskets and containers to be watered. If this is impossible leave them in a shady spot in a saucer of water.

Lawns

If the weather is hot and dry, keep the grass a little longer.

Wild-flower meadow grass can be cut this month once the flowers have set seed. It will look brown and bleached but will recover quickly when it rains again.

Pruning and Training

Cut out the first spent flowers on Buddlejas, so that the secondary blooms appear cleanly on the bush.

Lavender can be trimmed back now, taking the flower stems down to the first

leaves, and nipping the tips out of the main new young shoots to encourage bushiness and low branching. Dry the flower heads for potpourri.

Beech, Holly, Box and Yew hedges can all be trimmed any time now. They should not make further growth again this year.

Flowers

Make sure tall autumn flowers such as dahlias are adequately supported.

Many plants show mildew at this time of the year, especially if they are dry. If still in flower keep them well watered otherwise cut them back to ground level. If the problem is severe spray with a systemic fungicide.

Keep dead-heading perennials and annuals to prolong flowering. If you want to keep tender perennials for next year (marguerites, osteospermums, pelargoniums, fuchsias, salvias, etc.) begin taking cuttings but they will need to be kept above 5°C throughout the winter.

Kitchen Garden

Pick beans and courgettes hard, to keep

them cropping. Don't wait for your courgettes to turn into marrows - unless that is what you want. Let only the last ones do that, at the end of the month.

Plant out new strawberry plants into soil which has been really well enriched with old compost or manure.

Set out plants of cabbage and broccoli into their rows.

Enjoy your gardening.

Abbeytown WI

President Audrey Harrison welcomed everyone including new member Margaret Bell and guest Glynis Halliwell to the July meeting. Noeline Foster was thanked for the table flowers. The June minutes were read by Freda Garner and a letter from the Road Run Committee thanking the WI for the lovely teas and sending a £50 donation for funds. There was an invitation from Raughtonhead WI and a thank you letter from Margaret Brown and Margery Dargie for the cards they received on their bereavement. Members were asked for names to be given to Muriel Mattinson for the darts pairs.

Several items of interest were pointed out from the County News.

Margaret Moore gave the Financial report and it was agreed to hold a sponsored walk in September to try to raise more funds.

President Audrey

Jelly Bee
by Hollie Ann Lewis
aged 10 from
Holme St. Cuthbert School

Harrison then introduced Mrs Stukins from Bromfield WI, who demonstrated how to make small gift boxes. She had a template for everyone so we could all have a go, which we decorated with a flower and was ours to take home. Mrs Stukins was thanked by Margaret Moore for a very interesting demonstration.

Refreshments were served by Joan Graham and Mary Briggs.

The competition for a trinket box was won by Elinor Roper, 2nd Freda Garner. The flower was won by Elinor Roper, 2nd Phyllis Dockeray. The raffle winners were Elsie Foster, Noeline Foster and Mavis Graham.

Mrs Elsie Donald's group organized the social time.



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