

7-18-2013

Shrubs:

- Scatter cotton seed meal around the drip line of each azalea, pieris japonica, and rhododendrons to promote healthy flower and bud formation in the late summer. When it does not rain in July and August, water your azaleas and Japanese Holly's every 4 days.
- Crepe Myrtles suffering from mildew can be treated with [Agri-fos](#). If you have not yet fed your Crepe Myrtles this year, feed now with [plant trust](#), 2 oz per foot of height.
- To control lace bugs on rhododendrons and azaleas planted in the sun, use [Bonide Annual tree and shrub insect control](#). You can tell that lace bugs are present because the leaves will look silvery white.
- Spray for Japanese Beetles with [Bonide Eight](#).
- Keep an eye out for mites on Alberta Spruces. When there are brown spots developing on the sides of the spruce, spruce mites are likely present. To treat this, apply [Summit Year Round Spray Oil](#). When the top of the Albert Spruce turns brown, this is an indicator that the spruce is too dry.

Flowers:

- Use a [Luster Leaf PH Tester](#) to check the pH on petunias, calibrachoa, hibiscus, and geraniums that are planted in pots, containers, or baskets. If the pH is near 7, use 2 tablespoons of vinegar per quart of water and water every 2 weeks with this mix. Also, feed these plants weekly with [Neptune's Harvest fish and seaweed fertilizer](#).
- Replace your dead or dying annual flowers with Vinca Minor because these plants can withstand the heat and require little water. Be sure to feed these Vinca Minors with [Garden Trust](#) after planting.
- Cut spent flower stocks of off perennials.
- Now is the last chance to prune hardy mum's to promote bushy plant growth and make flowers this fall. Feed now with [Garden Trust](#), 1-2 oz per plant, if not done fed in the previous few weeks.

Vegetable Garden:

- Cool weather cole crops are now bolting or have been harvested. For areas where cole crops have been harvested, remove debris from cool season vegetables and sow swiss chard, a spinach like vegetable that can be cut every two weeks until late fall.
- Now is the time to plant cucumber seeds and cucumber plants to have a second cucumber harvest this summer. Keep cucumber plants well fed with [Neptune's Harvest Fish and Seaweed Fertilizer](#). Also, be sure to keep the cucumber plants well watered.
- The tomato in a can needs to be watered once or even twice a day when temperatures are 90°F or above. Be sure to feed the tomato in the can with [Neptune's Harvest Fish and Seaweed fertilizer](#) every 5 days, the concentration should be 2 tablespoons per gallon of water.

Lawn:

Brown and yellow spots in lawn see last weeks notes.

- If you did not apply *Bonide Crabgrass Control with Dimension* in the spring, then goose grass and crabgrass will begin to grow on sunny lawns. To stop this, apply [Bonide weedbeater plus crabgrass killer](#) now, before the goose and crab grass get out of control.
- Bermuda grass in your flower beds or shrubbery can be killed with [Grass Getter](#); before applying make sure your plants are listed as safe to spray on the label.
- In areas where poana or annual blue grass was present, but died this summer, sow [Certified Turf Sense Tall Fescue or Water Saver RTF Tall Fescue now](#). Cover these seeds with *Leafgro* or Baccto sphagnum peat moss after planting. Water daily until germination. Make a half rate application of [Turf Trust](#) over the entire lawn after sowing. To prevent annual blue grass return, apply [Crabgrass preventer with dimension](#) in late August over the entire lawn, except in the shade. This fall, do not sow grass seed on this treated lawn, only apply *Turf Trust* as scheduled.