August Tips

Late August through September is usually a good time to transplant, divide and plant perennials such as daylily, liriope, and echinacea. (HG 99) Be sure to keep them well watered during dry periods.

Mid-August through mid-October is the best time to start new lawns and renovate or overseed existing lawns. We recommend a turf-type tall fescue cultivar at a rate of 4 lbs. of seed per 1,000 sq. ft. of area for overseeding, or 8 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. for new lawns.

To avoid disease and insect problems

Sawflies seem to be in abundance this summer on a lot of plants including hibiscus, roses, and jewelweed, among others. The larvae of sawflies are often confused with caterpillars. Sawflies are the larvae of young of wasps (Hymenoptera), whereas caterpillars become moths or butterflies (Lepidoptera). A key difference is that sawflies have more than five pairs of prolegs. Caterpillars never have more than five. Sawflies feed together and often curl up when disturbed.

Adult sawflies (Eriocampa juglandis)

One of the coolest looking sawflies is the butternut woollyworm (Eriocampa juglandis). The bodies of the larvae are covered with fluffy white wax. They feed on the leaves of black walnut, butternut, and hickory. Underneath the wax is a green body with a white head. There is one generation each year. If you see chewing damage on black walnut, butternut, hickory, or any other tree, check for woollyworms. If you find a larva, you can remove them by hand with a small brush. You can also dust sawfly larvae with Diatomaceous Earth. It works by abrading the wax on the larvae, dehydrating them and killing them. You can purchase the diatomaceous earth online or at your local nursery.
on ripening tomatoes try harvesting them when they first change color and let them ripen indoors, *unrefrigerated!*

--- More August Tips

**What's hot 🪄**

**Trending Topics**

*Cicada Killer Wasps* – Are beneficial wasps that nest in dry, sandy soil in sunny areas. Fortunately, these wasps are not particularly aggressive although males can look very threatening if you get too close to where they are nesting.

*Japanese Stiltgrass* – This annual invasive weed is problematic in both lawns and woodland settings.

*Powdery Mildew* – Crape myrtles, lilacs, peonies and other woody and herbaceous plants have been diagnosed with this common fungal disease.

**Announcement! 📢**

**Announcing the Maryland Grows blog!**

We are pleased to announce the Home & Garden Information Center’s new blog, *Maryland Grows!* Follow the blog for timely tips and updates on lawn care and ornamental plants, food gardening, and the Maryland Master Gardener Program. Get advice on best practices from University of Maryland Extension’s experts and certified horticulturists. Check out these new articles:

- *The Continuing Saga of Keeping Critters Out of the Garden*
- *Steps to prevent and manage tomato leaf spot diseases*
- *Brown Patch in Maryland Lawns*
- *Blueberries and Micromesh*

Follow us at [Maryland Grows](http://marylandgrows.umd.edu)!
This exciting exploration into the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources demonstrates our commitment to the University's land-grant mission, research innovation, high-quality educational opportunities, and return on investment for a degree in agriculture. We are proud of our place in history as the University's cornerstone. Won't you come join us?

Watch out for a clip of Chris McComas, one of HGIC's certified professional horticulturalists, near the end of the video as she represents HGIC. Good job!

--- View on YouTube

Q&A

I think this is blossom end rot on a tomato. Could you take a look and let me know your thoughts and a solution to the problem?

While this symptom indeed looks very similar to that of blossom end rot, it is actually indicative of anthracnose, a type of fungal disease. Anthracnose causes sunken black lesions and this type of white- to salmon-colored fungal sporulation. Blossom end rot, a nutritional disorder, appears as a black, sunken leathery lesion, with no signs of fungus.

Have a plant or pest question? University of Maryland Extension's experts have answers! Send in your questions and photos to Ask an Expert.

Have a suggestion for a topic to cover in the HGIC newsletter? Send in your suggestions.
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