

## Top Ten August Gardening Tips

*from Sherri Wesner, Lead Gardener at Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens*

1. **Cut some flowers:** make a flower arrangement and put it somewhere that reminds you to go outside and enjoy your beautiful gardens while the weather is still warm.
2. **Wish for at least one inch of rain every week.** If it does not rain, get out the garden hose and water.
3. **Transplant the hanging basket you got for Mother's Day.** By now (if it's still in the original pot) it's probably leggy and needs to be watered two times per day. Here's what to do: first, trim the leggy stems off. Next, pull it out of the pot and cut off the bottom inch or two from the root ball. Lastly, plant it in a container twice as big as the original one or plant it in the ground in some nice loose soil.
4. **Deadhead perennials and annuals** on a weekly schedule to encourage more flowers.
5. **Deadhead annuals and perennials that reseed,** unless you want lots of babies next spring.
6. **Pull weeds** before they spread seeds all over your garden.
7. **Pull off the dead plant material from your Iris crowns** and trim off the browning foliage to discourage bugs from moving in.
8. **Cut back perennials that look spent.** This gives the plants a better chance to grow new foliage or flower again before the end of fall.
9. **Watch out for ground hogs:** they eat just as much, if not more, than deer!
10. **Visit Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens.** Bring a camera; take pictures and make notes of plants that you would like to add to your garden next year.

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