

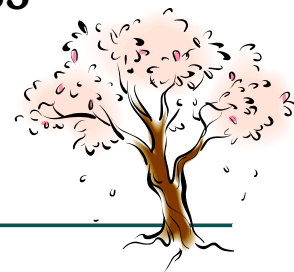
# THE EL DORADO NURSERY AND GARDEN NEWSLETTER

3931 C Durock Rd. Shingle Springs 530.676.6555

www.eldoradonursery.com



## July/Aug/Sept 2022



### GARDEN CALENDAR

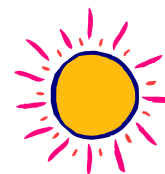


#### What to do in July

- Harvest vegetables regularly. Old fruit left on the plant will inhibit production.
- Pull weeds before they set seed.
- Water early in the day to prevent disease. Mulch around the base of shrubs and trees to reduce evaporation. Keep mulch 6 inches from the trunks.
- Renew flowering ground covers & perennials, shear and feed.
- Spray caterpillars with 'Take Down' or 'Monterey Garden Insect spray' available at the Nursery.
- Feed lawns. If water is limited, skip feeding.
- Check sprinkler and irrigation systems for problems.

#### What to do in August

- Herbs should be harvested in the morning for the freshest flavor.
- Plant second wave of beets, carrots, radishes, etc.
- Plant your fall garden. Start fall vegetables indoors (broccoli, cauliflower, lettuce, etc.).
- Set melons and pumpkins on a board to prevent rot.
- Clean up around fruit trees. Old fruit may harbor disease.
- Plant perennials and feed extensive blooming plants with MaxSea or G&B All Purpose.
- Set out bait for slugs. Keep away from children and pets. Try Sluggo which is safe around pets
- Deep-water trees and large shrubs.
- Give houseplants a bath outside in the fresh air. Keep in the shade.
- Summer prune fruit trees. See article below.



#### What to do in September

- Lawn repair: rough up bare spots with a rake, scratch in grass seed, cover with mulch, and keep moist.
- Prune berry bushes to the ground when they've finished fruiting. Train up new canes.
- Plant snapdragons, poppies, peas, lettuce, cole crops and root crops.
- Dig up and divide overgrown clumps of spring flowering bulbs. Amend your soil, add bulb food or bone meal, then replant.
- Divide and plant perennials. Add bone meal or starter fertilizer and Fir Mulch or Planting Mix to the soil before replanting.
- Fertilize fruit trees with G&B Citrus and Fruit Tree **before** leaf drop (early fall growth will have time to harden off before it gets cold).
- Give annuals and roses a last shot of fertilizer.
- Apply pre-emergent for weed control.
- Prebook bareroot fruit & nut trees. See our website for the list

<https://www.eldoradonursery.com/bareroot-1>

More like this: [Full year in the garden](#)

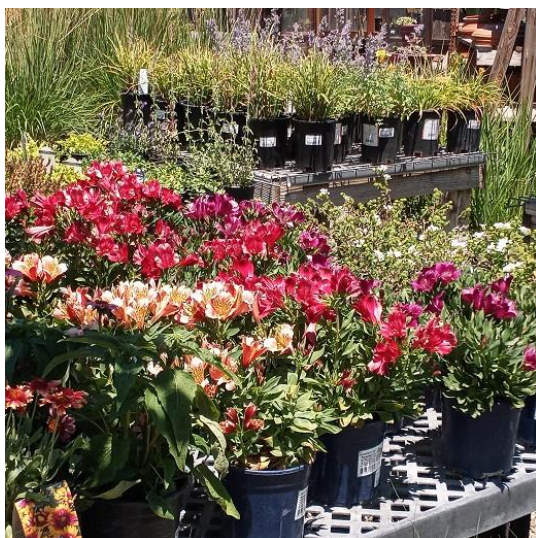
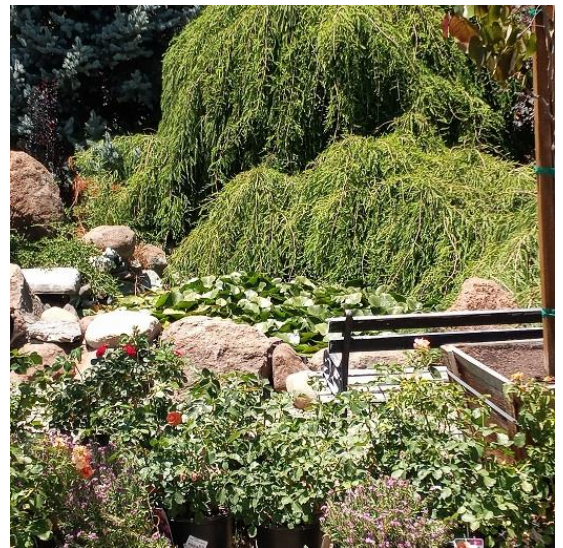
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## **GARDEN TIP OF THE MONTH**

Be pro-active on your Watering! Watch the weather reports and water really well in the morning *before* the heat wave turns them to mush. Speaking of watering, drips systems that only run for 10 minutes with emitters that are rated in GPH ( gallons per hour) are putting next to no water on the plants. An emitter rated at 2GPH on a 1 “gallon” plant needs to run for at least half an hour to get one gallon of water to it. And this may not even be enough when it comes to maintaining hydration in 100degree temps.



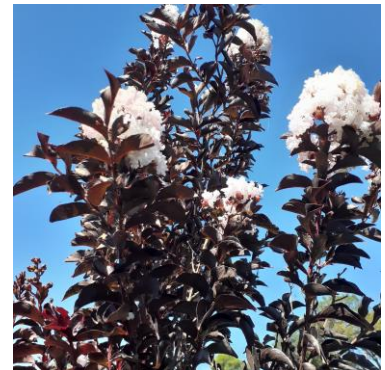
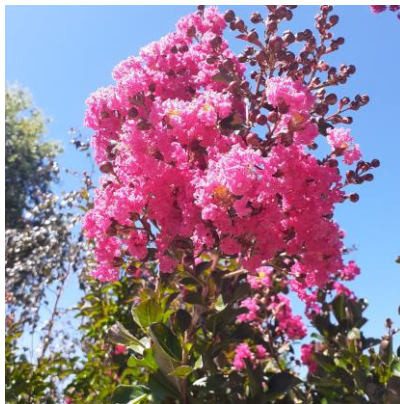
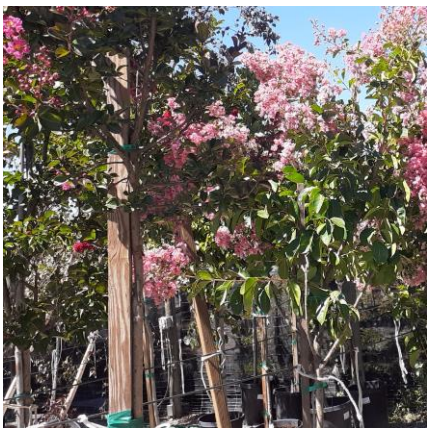
## **Around the Nursery:**



# Heat Sizzlers

**Crape Myrtle (Lagerstroemia hybrids)** Nothing beats the heat better than Crape Myrtle. While everything in the yard is looking tired from the heat, these shrubs and trees burst with vigor and color. They love as much sun as you can give them. Even reflective heat is fine. Avoid giving them too much shade as this will inhibit the bloom and encourage powdery mildew problems. They bloom on new growth, so a shot of Gardener & Bloom All Purpose Fertilizer around Mother's Day will be beneficial. They are low water when established. Most Crapes will have exfoliating bark with age and some sport great fall color. Lagerstroemia comes in many different colors with the exception of blue. (Need Vitex for that!) There are dwarf forms and taller ones that are frequently trained as trees. Yes, they are trained into single trunk trees. Crape Myrtle is a multi-trunked large shrub but can mature with a tree-like canopy when trained this way. Many of the older varieties can reach 25 feet or more. There are mid-size Crapes in the 12-15 foot range and dwarf cultivars staying below 8-10 foot. There are Crape Myrtlettes that are ground covers as well. I may have a line on these soon! Here is a listing for some of our favorite Lags you can find here at El Dorado Nursery.

- Dynamite and Red Rocket-25' Blood Red (by far the most popular)
- Tuscarora- 25' Salmon/Coral Pink
- Muskogee- 25' Lavender/Pink
- Natchez-25' White
- Twilight Purple- 20' Shimmering Purple
- Centennial Spirit- 18' Cherry Red
- Pink Velour- 12' Raspberry Red and lightly fragrant
- Miami- 12' Light Pink
- Zuni- 12' Purple
- Catawba- 10' Smoky Purple
- Moonlight Magic-12' White fading to Shell Pink. Black Leaves!
- Delta Flame-12' Dark Pink. Black Leaf Variety
- Earlybird Purple or White- 8'
- Sunset Magic- 8' Red. Black Leaf Variety



## **SUMMER PRUNING FRUIT TREES**



If not pruned, standard and semi-dwarf fruit trees may grow very large. The fruit is produced out of picking range. Thinning, harvesting, spraying and corrective pruning becomes very difficult. Reducing the canopy by pruning in summer reduces photosynthesis (food manufacture), thereby reducing the capacity for new growth. Summer pruning also reduces the total amount of food materials and energy available to be stored in the root system in late summer and fall. This controls vigor the following spring since spring growth is supported solely by stored foods and energy.

The biggest benefit of summer pruning is a greater quantity of fruit relative to the size of the trees. Pruned trees channel more nutrients into fruit production, rather than excessive foliage. Also, you don't have to get on a ladder to harvest the fruit.

Keep your fruit trees small by summer pruning. From the first year on, summer pruning is the easiest way to develop and maintain a tree's lower fruiting wood. By pruning during each growing season the trees may be held to any desired height.

To keep most fruit trees small and compact, a simple vase-shape method is entirely adequate. As soon as the tree has made enough new growth that the four lower, main scaffold limbs can be selected, usually in early to mid-summer of the first year, cut out any remaining central leader above the uppermost scaffold limb. Cut back any remaining vigorous growth by half. Make cuts just above outward-facing buds. In winter, remove dead, diseased, or damaged limbs, plus misdirected or crossing limbs. When pruning, always sterilize pruning shears between cuts.

Beginning in the second year, vigorous varieties may require two prunings: late spring and mid to late summer. The amount to remove or cut back is determined by the degree of size control desired by the grower.

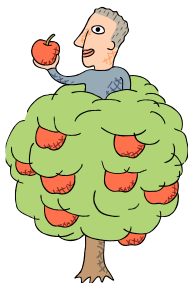
Vertical new growth is the most vigorous and least fruitful. Remove vigorous sucker (water sprouts) that grow straight up through the tree. Remove other new growth that interferes with air circulation and sunlight penetration. Sunlight penetration is necessary to sustain the development of lower and interior fruiting wood. Good air circulation is necessary for disease control. Proper pruning leads to improved disease resistance.

Stone (peach, plum, etc.) and pome (apple, pear) fruits do not set fruit on the current year's growth, rather on the older wood. Only a limited amount of new wood need be retained for future year's crop. It is also necessary to retain enough new growth to give partial shade to the fruit and lower parts of the tree. This creates a sufficient capacity for photosynthesis that is required to maintain a healthy tree.

Whenever possible, fruiting wood is selected from new shoots growing at a 45-degree angle or less. Such growth bends down when carrying fruit, and thereafter grown in a more downward direction.

Pruning for size control means pruning to adjust a tree's capacity for growth. In all cases pruning strategy must be adapted, by trial and observation, to the particular combination of tree variety, rootstock, soil, climate, and desired tree size.

**HAPPY HARVESTING!**



## Fall Weed Maintenance

After a few seasons of nearly non-stop sprouting, one would naturally think weeds would be ready to take a break from proliferating. But some weeds actually prefer sprouting in the cooling temperatures of fall. These garden pests can pop up anywhere from early to mid autumn, live in a semi-dormant state during winter, then pop through the earth as early spring appears. Most fall and winter annual weeds die back when the weather gets hot, but not before flowering and dropping seed to start the cycle all over again. It's best to pull them out prior to flowering, as their production of seeds will allow them to multiply.

One way to break the cycle is to prevent them before they get started. Applying a weed-preventing product called a pre-emergent can stop weed seeds from growing for three to four months per application. A September to early-October application is enough to cover the prime-time sprouting window. Unfortunately, pre-emergence herbicides do not work on perennial weeds with established root systems. In order to control perennial weeds, you need to identify the type of weed and either hand-dig or find an herbicide that will work to control the weed type. The nursery keeps our recommended granular and liquid pre-emergent products for commercial and home garden use in stock.

Pulling or digging fall weeds is relatively easy because they're young and tender, but since most are prolific and creeping, the work can be time-consuming. Alternatively, sprouted weeds can be spot-sprayed with a broadleaf weed-killer (use one that doesn't harm grass in lawn settings). We have several options that we stock in the nursery.



## TIPS FOR EFFICIENT WATERING



- Cooler weather doesn't alleviate the need to water your yard.
- Avoid sprinkling leaves with overhead watering. Salts in the water can damage the foliage.
- If trees or shrubs are planted in lawn, water them separately at the drip line.
- If hand watering, install a faucet timer and use a soaker hose for consistent watering.
- Once or twice annually, soak three times longer than normal to help leach salts out of the root zone. Salts can build up from manure and fertilizer.
- Expand the watering area as the plants grow by moving drippers and water basins out further.
- To prevent run-off, retain water in a basin around the plant, or water at a slower rate.
- Watering in the early morning is the most efficient method because the morning hours tend to have less wind and heat.
- Collect and water with rain water.
- Learn how to operate your automatic timer and adjust as necessary.

### SIGNS OF UNDER-WATERING

The signals you receive from your plants for under watering are similar to the signals you receive when you overwater plants. Under-watering and over-watering plants often reach the same outcome – sick or dead plants. The following are signs of under-watering:

- Soil is dry.
- Older leaves turn yellow or brown and may even drop off.
- Leaves are wilted and/or curled.
- Plant grows slower than normal.
- Footprints remain visible on turf.

### SIGNS OF OVER-WATERING

The roots of plants take up water and oxygen to survive and thrive. Overwatering drowns your plant. Oxygen fills the space between the particles of soil in your garden. Soil that is constantly wet won't have enough air pockets and plants will not be able to breathe by taking up oxygen with their roots. The following are signs of over-watering:

- Your plant is wilting but it looks like it has plenty of water.
- Soil is constantly damp.
- Young leaves become light green or yellow.
- Young shoots are wilted.
- Leaves are green yet brittle.
- Algae and mushrooms are growing.
- Leaves fall.

### PLANTS THAT TOLERATE WET AREAS

- Lily of the Valley
- Fern
- Sweet Woodruff
- Hosta
- Daylily
- Astilbe
- Rose Mallow
- Coral Bells



### PLANTS THAT TOLERATE DRY AREAS

- Lavender
- Salvia
- Yarrow
- Flax
- Sedum
- Sempervivum
- Ceanothus
- Sweet Spire

