



August in the Garden

By Tony Sarah, Horticulturist

Mid to late August is the time to cut back existing tomato plants. Fertilize afterwards to stimulate re-growth and your plants will provide you with a nice full harvest before cold weather arrives.

You may decide to replace your summer tomato plants with new seedlings instead. In addition to tomato seedlings, you may also want to set out fresh starts of okra, peppers and even eggplant. Depending on how quickly the nighttime temperatures start to drop, you may or may not get much of a crop. Even though daytime temperatures are still high, it really is the nighttime temperature that dictates how well your fruits and vegetables will set and ripen. Cool enough temperatures at night can inhibit the growth and production of heat loving plants.

August is also a great time to get started on cool weather crops and a quick corn crop. Early on in the month, plant short season corn crops. They like the high daytime temperatures and cooler nights towards harvest time keep the sugars in sweet corn from turning into starch. Mid to late month get ready to start vegetable seedlings such as broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, peas, bunching onions, leeks, lettuce, etc. As we wrap up August, prepare your garden soil for winter crops. Add extra organic material; compost, peat moss (ours is OMRI certified), fertilizer, Bumper Crop (an organic soil amendment containing forest humus, chicken manure, rice hulls, worm castings, bat guano, kelp meal, oyster shell, dolomite lime and endo/ecto mycorrhizae). Till all the good stuff in and then you're ready to plant!

The end of August is the time to sow carrot, beet, spinach, and radish seeds. They won't come up if it's too hot, so don't try to rush it. We will be stocked up on seeds and seed starting supplies as well as seedlings. We carry a large selection of seed from Botanical Interests! We have a wide variety of organic herbs and veggies in addition to conventional seed.