

LOCALNEWS

August garden tips: time for lawn repair

LAWNS

Mid-August into early September is the time to do lawn repairs. Warmer soil speeds germination and there is less competition from weeds. Lawns can be over-seeded or small areas renovated or new lawns started. There are specially formulated fertilizers for new lawns. Read the labels carefully. Be sure to water the area well as soon as it is seeded, then keep the seed bed damp by watering once or twice a day until most of the seed has sprouted and is growing.

TREES AND SHRUBS

■ Check trees and shrubs for insects and diseases. Look for insect damage on foliage.
■ Prune or thin shrubs that have flowered this summer: Spring flowering shrubs should have been



Marylou MARCHAND
MASTER GARDENER

pruned earlier. Late August is a good time to reshape lilacs and similar shrubs by removing some of the larger older stems close to the ground.
■ Container grown trees and shrubs can be planted now. Check the planting directions for the appropriate hole size and loosen the roots just a little before planting. Water all trees and shrubs regularly until fall freeze up.

FLOWERS

■ Daylilies can be divided once they've finished blooming. Seed heads should be removed whether the daylilies are divided or not.
■ Remove faded flowers regularly on annuals and perennials. Developing seeds slow rebloom on annuals and waste energy in perennials. Perennial foliage that has turned yellow may be cut back.
■ If any plants are infected with aster yellows, pull out and destroy the plants. Do not put them in the compost pile.
■ Fertilize baskets and pots of annuals to keep them at their best until the end of the season. Cut back petunias or other straggly annuals for better shape and additional flower production.
■ Irises should be divided in August

FRUITS

■ Prune out raspberry canes that have produced fruit this summer. These old, brown canes won't produce again.
■ Clean up all overripe fruit from strawberries and raspberries and pick up windfalls from apples and other fruiting trees.
■ Strawberry beds should be renovated now.

VEGETABLES

■ It's not too late to plant some greens and other vegetables that grow quickly and can tolerate cool temps and even light frost. Plant basil in a large pot that you can protect from cooler temps. Greens such as lettuce, arugula, kale and spinach along with radishes, beets, carrots and snow peas can be planted now for fall eating.
■ Keep watering garden

plants if we don't get sufficient rain. When you pick tomatoes, leave a bit of stem attached or pick a whole cluster to reduce the potential for mold or bacteria getting into the tomato and speeding deterioration.
■ Trim lower leaves from tomato plants to increase air circulation and help reduce the risk of disease.
■ Remove and dispose of diseased foliage from vegetable crops to reduce the spread of disease.
■ Pick those zucchini and tomatoes before they get too big. If they stay on the vine, they will inhibit new fruit from developing.
■ Although it seems we've had a quite a lot of rain this season, check the soil around your trees and shrubs to see if you need to water. It may well be

cheaper to water than to remove and replace a dead tree.
■ Take the time to enjoy your gardens and also to evaluate the performance of vegetable varieties and the success of annuals and perennials. Make notes now for next year's gardens.
To find reliable information about vegetable gardening and other horticultural topics, go to the University of Minnesota Extension website <http://www.extension.umn.edu/gardeninfo/>. Local master gardeners will also answer your gardening questions via a voice-mail service. Call 444-7916, leaving your phone number, name and the nature of your question. A volunteer master gardener will give you a call.

Gas prices take a small dip

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Average retail gasoline prices in Minnesota have fallen 5 cents in the past week, averaging \$3.58 per gallon Thursday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 2,856 gas outlets in Minnesota. This compares with the national average that has decreased 2.7 cents per gallon in the last week to \$3.65 per gallon, according to gasoline price website MinnesotaGasPrices.com.

Prices in International Falls Sunday ranged from \$3.75 to \$3.84 per gallon, according to the website. Including the change in gas prices in Minnesota during the past week, prices Sunday were 0.9 cents per gallon higher compared to the same day one year ago and are 21.3 cents per gallon higher than a month ago. The national average has increased 14 cents per gallon during the last month and stands 15 cents per gallon

higher than this day one year ago.
"After an impressive run that saw the national average begin to approach its springtime high, it appears prices have plateaued- at least for now," said GasBuddy.com Senior Petroleum Analyst Patrick DeHaan. "Oil prices appear to be taking a breather, but with the peak of hurricane season approaching, an continued upward trajectory in gasoline prices is certainly possible,

should we see a major storm take aim for the Gulf. Crude inventories have also declined four consecutive weeks, and large decreases in crude inventories in the near future may be cause for rising oil prices as well," DeHaan said.
GasBuddy operates MinnesotaGasPrices.com and over 250 similar websites that track gasoline prices at more than 140,000 gasoline stations in the United States and Canada.

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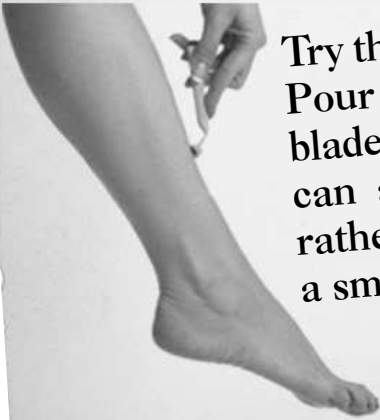
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Tchotchke
(choch•key)

meaning:
trinket, doohickey, gizmo, whatchamacallit

Tired of throwing out expensive razors only after a few uses?



Try this tip next time you shave: Pour a little bit of baby oil on the blades before you shave. You can also shave with baby oil, rather than shaving cream, for a smoother (and closer) shave!

Easy blueberry pie recipe:

- Ingredients
- 3 cups blueberries
 - 1 cup heavy cream
 - 2/3 cup sugar
 - 4 tbs all-purpose flour
 - 1/4 tsp salt
 - 1 tbs orange or lemon zest
 - 1 pastry pie crust

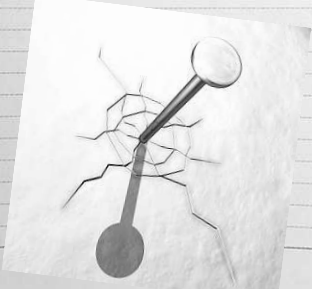
- Instructions
1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
 2. Pour blueberries into unbaked pie crust.
 3. Whisk together heavy cream, sugar, flour, salt, and choice of zest.
 4. Pour over blueberries.
 5. Bake 35-42 minutes or until a light golden brown on the top.
 6. Let cool and store in refrigerator. The pie tastes best when eaten chilled.



Sweeten your tomatoes by sprinkling baking soda on the soil around your tomato plants.



Want to get rid of the holes caused by nails on the wall? Just rub a bar of white soap and across the hole until it's filled.



Simple and delicious Homemade Salsa:

Chop 5-6 Roma tomatoes, 1 small onion and 1/2 cup fresh Cilantro. Mince 2 seeded Serrano or Jalapeño peppers and 1 clove of garlic. Add 2 tbsp. freshly squeezed lime juice and salt and pepper to taste. Mix everything together and let sit overnight for flavors to meld. Enjoy!

