



August 2026 - Keeping plants thriving in extreme heat

August is one of the hottest months in Oregon. Keeping cool and hydrated is important not only for your health, but for the health of your plants!

Tips to keep your garden thriving:

Water Plants Early and Deeply:

- Watering deeply allows soil to absorb more water
- Watering shallowly only gets the top inch of the soil, and the water is likely to evaporate, leading to wasted water and thirsty plants.
- No a morning person? You can also water your garden in the evening.

Add Mulch:

- Adding a layer of mulch 2-3" thick helps soil stay cool and moist.

Move Potted Plants to Shade:

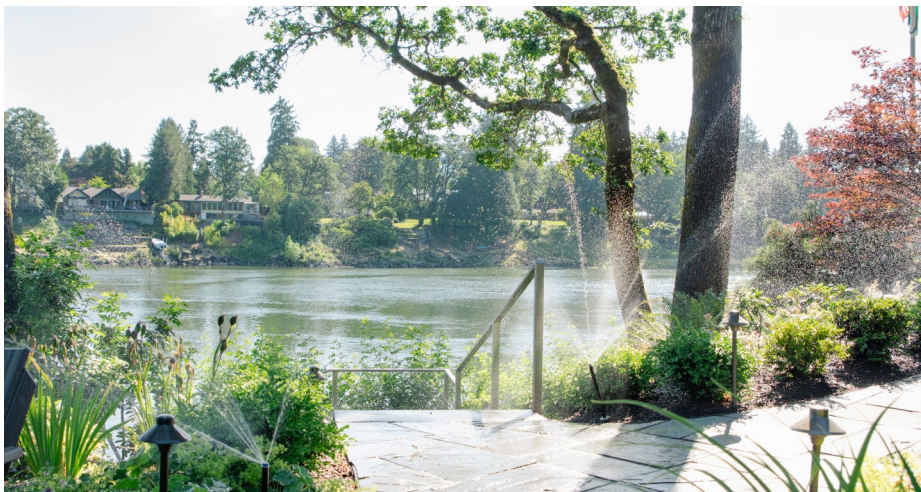
- Container/hanging pots dry out faster. Check them multiple times a day to see if they need watering.

Use Shade Cloth on Immovable Plants:

- Setting up a shade cloth keeps the air temperature around your plants lower, lessening water loss through transpiration.
- Local nurseries carry various color and transparencies and can give you guidance.

Avoid Pruning and Fertilizing:

- Resist the temptation to remove sun-damaged leaves! Keep them to help shade healthy foliage!
- Fertilizing and pruning plants when they're in survival mode stresses them even more (fertilizer triggers new growth). Wait until after the heat has passed any your plants have recovered.



Monthly Design Tip

If you're tired of the heat and paying high energy bills to cool your home, consider investing in planting for passive cooling! Planting canopy trees that will shade windows on the east and west sides of your home can help reduce your cooling costs.

There are many other planting strategies that can be employed to passively cool your house; reach out to us and we'll help you prepare for next year's heat wave!

Local Happenings

2026 NW Natural Street of Dreams 50th Anniversary, July 30-August 23

Soil Lead Testing, Portland Nursery, August 1st & 30th, 10-12pm

Oregon Carnivorous Plant Community Show & Sale, Portland Nursery - Division Location, August 8-9, 10-4pm

Farwest Trade Show, Oregon Convention Center, August 26-28

Plant of the Month: Ponderosa Pine - *Pinus ponderosa* var. *benthamiana*

A Willamette Valley native, Ponderosa pine is one of the West's most fire-resistant conifers and an underutilized, climate-resilient choice for residential landscapes. Exceptionally drought-tolerant once established, its iconic puzzle-like bark, warm vanilla fragrance, and improved fire resilience with simple lower-branch pruning make it a beautiful and practical tree - even for smaller properties.

