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August Grass Planting

August is the best month of the year to clean up overgrown or unneeded flower beds and for planting grass.

Mixtures of bluegrass, creeping red fescue and, one of the new perennial ryegrass selections winter-hardy in Minnesota can begin to sprout in a week. They make good growth in the shortening days and cooler nights of late summer.

Before planting grass, be sure that all perennial roots are removed to the compost pile. Work in organic material if the soil is hard or sandy. Either superphosphate or 0-20-20 is a useful fertilizer to cultivate into new lawn areas. Nitrogen fertilizer can be used in very small amounts. The "Home Lawn Bulletin" available from your county extension office will give further information about preparing and seeding new lawns.

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Fertilizing Flowers

(0:30)

Some of the flowers Minnesota gardeners enjoy during August and September need feeding all through their blooming season.

Petunias, chrysanthemums, geraniums, fall blooming perennial asters, pansies, impatiens and begonias all benefit from light fertilizing each month. Water soluble fertilizers used according to package directions are safe even in hot weather.

University of Minnesota Horticulturist Jane McKinnon says home landscape arrangements rarely ever reach perfection. Take a long, slow walk around your grounds. You might want to make your property both more useful and more beautiful.

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