

# In the Garden

Welcome to a new article aimed at helping you to keep up with the pace in the garden. I am a local garden designer and hope, over the course of the year to offer you inspirational ideas, design tips and practical advice for your garden. July and August are the months to sit back and enjoy your garden space at it's summer best, but if you still fancy a potter I have included a list of useful tasks to be getting on with in the garden...

## Tips and Hints

**1** July is the best time to lift and divide your Flag Iris. This plant benefits from lots of sun to bake the rhizomatous root system and dislikes congested roots. After they have finished flowering, lift the entire clump and pull apart, ensuring each divided section has a leaf emerging. Cut the leaves down by half, to reduce demands on the newly separated rhizome and to prevent the wind rocking the newly re-planted stock.

**2** Cut sweet pea flowers regularly to prolong your flowering season. If you see any emerging seed pods, snap them off the encourage the same effect. The last pods of the season can be harvested for planting to create next year's plants.

**3** Encourage bees into your garden to aid fertilisation and hence seed production. Plants that act as sirens to bees include: foxgloves, campanula, honeysuckle, snap dragons and lavender.

**4** Think ahead and plant autumn flowering bulbs

now. Try Nerines, Colchicums and Crocus Sativus or Autumnalis.

**5** This is the best time to sow biennials for a colourful spring display next year. Choices include: honesty, hollyhocks, wall flowers and sweet rocket. Choose a plant pot or sheltered spot in a nursery bed with good drainage. Keep well watered once germination has occurred and avoid too much direct sunlight when plants are young.

**6** Take cuttings from lavender. Choose a non-flowering side shoot and pull off



► This trio of plants are ideal to bring a cool airy feel to a hot spot in the garden. They all like a free draining position in full sun. Plant in threes to create a beautiful area in your summer border taking up approximately 2 metre square.



## ACANTHUS GARDEN DESIGN

Chelsea Medal-winning Design  
Consultancy  
Project Management

For a free initial consultation, please contact:

The Mill House, Swaffham Prior.  
Tel: 01638 745248/ 07776145899  
E: [contact@acanthusgardendesigns.com](mailto:contact@acanthusgardendesigns.com)

[www.acanthusgardendesigns.com](http://www.acanthusgardendesigns.com)

base of the stem. Remove the lower leaves, insert into gritty compost (a dip into rooting hormone prior to this stage gives the best chances) around the edge of a terracotta pot. Water and cover with a clear plastic bag.

**7** Check fruiting trees for disease and remove any affected fruit. If you haven't done so by now, thin out your fruit to promote larger, juicier fruiting potential in those that remain.

**8** Prune Weigela, Deutzia, Forsythia, Syringa (Lilac) and Ceanothus (California Lilac) after flowering.

**9** Successional sowings of radish and salad leaves such as lettuce, spinach and rocket will keep your salad bowl full well into autumn (weather

permitting!). Ideally set a new row every 2-4 weeks to keep your cycle going.

**10** August starts to lend itself to the autumnal harvesting process and is the best time to collect seed from: Granny's Bonnets (Aquilegia Vulgaris), Acanthus Mollis, perennial poppies (Papaver Orientalis) and lupins. Remove the seed head and place into a paper bag/used envelope. Leave to dry. Shake to release the seeds and sift them from the chaff. Store in an airtight container in a dark place ready for planting in the spring.

*Happy gardening!*

From Claire Morris at  
Acanthus Garden Design  
01638 745248

## Design Tip

The use of hot coloured plants in the garden draw the eye. This can be used to good effect when trying to create a focal point, for example a strategically placed Red Hot Poker (Kniphofia) can look really stunning. However, beware of planting vibrant reds, oranges or yellow colours at the back of the border/garden, as this will have the effect of foreshortening the space. Better to use cool lilac, blue and pink to softly recede into the distance