

## Late summer landscape jobs that pay off later

Late summer landscape jobs can pay big dividends a little later.

Touch-up pruning with hand pruners on shrubs can greatly improve their appearance. Ligustrum, elaeagnus, cleyera and a number of other shrubs tend to send up shoots that protrude from the canopy. These longer shoots should be completely removed or at least cut off below the canopy. This will give the shrubs a more natural look.

Gardeners often neglect their roses during the busy summer months. Here's how to get those roses blooming for the fall.

First, cut out any diseased, injured or spindly growth and shorten the main canes and lateral branches. But leave at least half the length of each main cane that's one to three years old. It generally takes healthy rose bushes approximately six weeks from pruning to the beginning of a flush of flowers.

Second, it's important to follow a spray schedule for control of insects and diseases. A weekly application of a fungicide will provide a "protective shield" over the new growth that will reduce black spot and powdery mildew problems.

Third, for roses that have not been fertilized recently, an application of fertilizer now will be beneficial. Be sure to spread the fertilizer well beyond the drip line of the foliage and water it in for faster action.

To encourage a second crop of blossoms on crape myrtles, remove the spent flower heads as soon as they occur. It should take about four to six weeks for the plants to re-bloom. This technique can also work on Vitex (chaste tree). But act soon, pruning too late will not allow enough time for flower initiation before we move into the cooler, shorter days of fall.

Now is a good time to propagate many ornamentals such as oleanders, hydrangeas and azaleas. To produce azaleas in this manner, take tip cuttings three to five inches long with several leaves attached. Place the cuttings in a rooting medium in a shady area and keep them moist by covering them with a plastic bag or by using a mist system. Many rooting mediums can be used. The most common are sand and mixtures of peat and perlite. A rooting hormone may hasten root growth.

Late summer and early fall is an ideal time to divide and replant daylilies. Divide the clumps, retaining as many of the roots as possible with each division. Prior to planting the division, cut back the foliage to 1/3 its original height. Daylilies should not be planted too deep. Set the new divisions only as deep as they grew originally.

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