

AUGUST

Did you know that ...

... one of the events in August is National Water Quality Month. "*How to Clean Up Our Water*" *Ten Simple Ways You Can Help Reduce Pollution and Runoff* can be found at the National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) web site: <http://www.nrdc.org/water/pollution/gsteps.asp>

... in common years no other month starts on the same day of the week as August, though in leap years February starts on the same day. August ends on the same day of the week as November every year.

... August birth flower is the gladiolus or poppy, meaning beauty, strength of character, love, marriage and family.



What is it? Slime mold or slime mould is an organism that uses spores to reproduce. Found in a wide variety of colors, more than 900 species of slime mold occur all over the world and feed on microorganisms that live in any type of dead plant material. They contribute to the decomposition of dead vegetation, and feed on bacteria, yeasts, and fungi. These organisms are usually found in overly wet soil, lawns, and on the forest floor. In urban areas, they are found on mulch or even in the leaf mold in gutters, and also grow in air conditioners, especially when the drain is blocked.

-  Removing spent chrysanthemum buds will produce larger blooms.
-  Container-grown plants have a limited area from which to absorb water. They will need watering often to avoid water stress.
-  Remove old plants and fallen plant leaves to eliminate shelter for insects and disease organisms.
-  Every weed that produces seed means more trouble next year. Control weeds before they go to seed.
-  Garden flowers, whether annuals or perennials, benefit from "deadheading" after flowering.
-  Dig, and divide crowded iris, lilies, etc. Now is the time to move plants while they are still growing – water deeply after the transplant.
-  Replace your tired annuals with cooler ones such as, zinnia, pansies, etc. Or plant a new perennial such as bee balm or cone flower. You can find them at your local garden center.
-  Clean out your air conditioner to prevent mold and rust.

"Fairest of the months!
Ripe summer's queen
The hey-day of the year
With robes that gleam with sunny sheen
Sweet August doth appear."

R. Combe Miller

