

*August Watering Tips*



Sweltering summer days mean watering occupies much of a Southern gardener's time. Follow these tips to make the most of your irrigation efforts:

Time it right. The best time of day to water is early morning or early evening.

Don't worry about wilting. Many plants wilt under the intense heat of high noon -- even when soil is moist. Check plants in early evening. Leaves should be back to normal. If they're still wilted, water plants deeply.

Water the newbies. Plants added to the landscape this year or last fall are the ones that need water the most.

Wait before spraying. Plants that are drought stressed burn more easily when sprayed with pesticides. Water plants a few hours before you spray any chemicals.

Test Garden Tip: Reset irrigation timers monthly to ensure you're delivering the right amount of water at the right time of day. Install an automatic rain shutoff to eliminate unnecessary irrigation.



*Current Project*

I want to take the opportunity this month to explain a few of the challenges we run into during the construction process. One element of our current project that is still in progress is a stone staircase constructed in between the house and the garage.



The space is small and the materials were heavy so equipment was required. The machines had only a few inches clearance on either side of the access area along with an overhead structure to be aware of as well. This is tiring for a machine operator because of the level of care involved working that close to a structure for an entire day. Live main power, pressurized water, fiber communication, sewer, dock power and water lines were all beneath the work space. The main part of the entire drainage infrastructure for the front of the house and driveway had to be installed in this same area also. Irrigation lines and future-use conduit were added in the mix as well. Tedious is an understatement for this type of project. It takes years of experience for a crew leader to

achieve the level of expertise required to execute this type work on time and according to plan. We're proud of our crew and their masterful job of putting this portion of the project together without any major problems. The steps turned out beautifully. We'll update everyone on this one again upon completion.



THE DOG DAYS OF Summer

**FUN FACT!**



The dog days or dog days of summer are the hot, sultry days of summer. They were historically the period following the heliacal rising of the star system Sirius, which Greek and Roman astrology connected with heat, drought, sudden thunderstorms, lethargy, fever, mad dogs, and bad luck. They are now taken to be the hottest, most uncomfortable part of summer in the Northern Hemisphere.