



# GREEN TIPS

Department of Horticulture - Michigan State University

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## GENERAL UPKEEP AND CLEANUP OF AN ANNUAL GARDEN

- Remove faded flowers and seed heads to improve appearance and to induce production of more flowers.
- Remove weeds when small.
- Watch for insects and diseases. General purpose insecticide and fungicide mixtures are available to help control pests. Remove seriously diseased or insect infested plants.
- Some plants may need pinching to control either plant size or direction of growth and to promote continuous blooming.
- The tops of some plants, such as petunias and impatiens, may be cut back to 6 to 8 inches in mid-to late summer after the first flush of flowers has subsided to promote a second flowering period in the fall. A good time is right after 4<sup>th</sup> of July.
- Keep a record of the cultivars that you grow, how they performed and whether you want to grow them another year.
- Remove plants as frost kills them in the fall.
- Leave any biennials that might bloom next year.
- Empty the growing medium from containers - it is best to use new growing medium each year. Store containers upside down in a protected location - freezing damages some materials.
- Clean and put away tools. Write down final observations about your garden and plants so that you can make improvements next year.

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