

June Garden Activities from Your Master Gardener Extension Volunteers

Trees and Shrubs - Cuttings of deciduous shrubs may be rooted in late June; root 6-inch clippings in damp sand, keeping it moist and roots may form by September.

One of the best things you can do for your trees and shrubs is to eliminate nutrient and water competition by removing the grass and weeds growing at the base of your plant and add about two inches of mulch.

Remove small sprouts from the base and from the trunk of tree-form crape myrtles.

Prune azaleas (if needed) after they have finished blooming and make sure they have about 2 inches of mulch.

Prune climbing roses after blooming finishes, cutting away weak, old or woody canes.

Prune hydrangeas (if needed) when most of the flowers have faded.

Vegetables - Don't kill the big green caterpillars that get on your parsley or fennel. They will soon become beautiful swallowtail butterflies.

If you like the taste of homegrown tomatoes but do not have garden space, patio type tomatoes can be grown on a sunny porch (6 hours minimum sun) in a 24-inch pot or larger.

Fertilize tomato plants regularly, inspect them for signs of leaf diseases and spray with fungicide if necessary. Always follow label directions.

Harvest vegetables regularly to prolong production and enjoy your vegetables at the peak of their freshness. One ripe vegetable on your okra or squash plant halts blooming on the entire plant. Use a knife when harvesting so you will not damage your plant.

Watch for Japanese beetles in your garden. Hand-pick them or spray with an insect killer, always following label directions. Systemic products are also on the market, but they may kill beneficial insects as well as the Japanese beetles.

Plant corn in several short rows, side by side, instead of a long single row because wind currents pollinate it, not insects.

Plant herbs in sunny patio pots near your kitchen and you can start harvesting leaves in a few weeks. Your plants will grow best if you harvest regularly.

Container grown vegetables and flowers can dry out quickly on a patio in full sun. Daily watering may be necessary.

Be careful if you must work in your garden when the soil is too wet. When planting, the wet soil will clump together and possibly leave air pockets that will dry out your plant's roots. Water in new plantings well.

Mulch your vegetable garden with pine straw or wheat straw. You can use three sheets of newspaper to cover the ground around your plants, then cover the paper with straw.

Water cucumbers regularly so they won't have a bitter taste.

Check garden crops daily for disease and insect problems.

Harvest onions, garlic and Irish potatoes when two thirds of the plant tops have died down.

Pull weeds from vegetable gardens and flowerbeds weekly.

Flowerbeds - An easy formula for creating a beautiful container garden is to use a single tall plant with a trailer that spills over the edge, along with some plants to fill in the gaps.

Divide the iris after they bloom.

Use soaker hoses to irrigate annuals, perennials, shrubs and vegetables.

Remove faded flowers from summer annuals to prevent a lull in blooming.

Some quick growing annuals you can grow in your garden are cleome, cosmos, marigold and zinnia.

Look for seedlings under your Lenten roses and transplant them to other shady spots in your garden or share them with a friend.

Check dahlias for spider mites and spray with an insecticide, if necessary, always following label directions. Clip the faded flowers to encourage blooms through the summer.

Stake tall growing flowers like dahlias, lilies and hollyhocks.

Cut back chrysanthemums so they won't be too leggy later in the summer and fall when they bloom.

Continue planting annuals for summer color and fill in bare spots in your flower garden.

Summer blooming bulbs can still be planted.

Fertilize flowerbeds.

Houseplants - Houseplants that have been moved outdoors may require more water during summer months.

Divide overgrown Boston ferns.

Miscellaneous - During hot weather, raise the height of your mower to help your lawn withstand hot, dry weather.

Install a birdbath and enjoy the show.

Jo Anne Allen
Master Gardener Extension Volunteer