

July

Annuals:

- Continue planting. There is still plenty of time left to enjoy your garden.
- Stake plants that begin to get tall and floppy.
- If you used a slow release fertilizer when planting, you do not need to use anything this month. If you did not, fertilize with a low-nitrogen, quick release fertilizer.
- Watch for bugs. Japanese beetles are showing up this month, so make sure you are prepared.
- Keep watering your plants with about 1" of water per week.
- Continue to deadhead. Also, pinch back leggy plants to encourage branching and more flowering.

Bulbs:

- Continue to stake tall floppy plants as needed.
- Continue to deadhead summer flowering bulbs. This will increase flowering, reduces disease, and improves overall appearance.
- Watch for aphids and mites. They can be easily controlled with insecticidal soap.
- Continue to water, about 1" per week for established plants.

Fruit:

- Continue to harvest ripe fruit. Cherries, raspberries, currants, gooseberries, and more will all be ripe during this month.
- Continue to water as needed.
- Continue to spray for apple and pear scab during wet periods with a fungicide. Pay attention to the labels on all insecticides when using on fruit.
- Prune raspberry plants right after harvest. Remove all the older canes that had fruit this summer. Cut those stems back to the ground. Now is also a good time to thin the raspberries to increase air flow.

Herbs and Vegetables:

- Begin harvesting most summer bearing plants, such as spinach (when leaves are 6-8"), leaf lettuce (when leaves are 4-6"), summer squash (when fruit is 6-8" long), beets, radishes, broccoli, and herbs.
- Monitor water needs. Most plants will need about 1" of water per week.
- Stake or cage tomatoes.
- Cut back leggy annual herbs.
- Continue to monitor for pests and diseases.
- Apply fertilizer to tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, and beans when they start producing fruit. Use a low nitrogen fertilizer or ammonium nitrate. Use the same to fertilize leafy vegetables, sweet corn, and root crops when they are half their mature height.

Lawns:

- You can still lay sod, but make sure and keep it moist.
- Established lawns need about 1" of water per week. Try to water early in the day to help prevent disease. Drought and heat will put extra stress on your lawn, so it may take extra effort to keep a green lawn during July and August.
- Only fertilize if your lawn is irrigated. If you are fertilizing, use the same steps from June.
- Try and keep your lawn taller, around 3-3.5". This helps make your lawn more drought tolerant.
- Continue to dig out weeds. Crabgrass will now start to appear.

Perennials, Ornamental Grasses, and ground covers:

- Continue planting.
- Continue to monitor water needs.
- Continue to monitor for pests. If you notice damaging populations, use an insecticidal soap to control insects. You may also need to use an insecticide to kill Japanese Beetles that are now showing up.

Roses:

- Japanese beetles are now appearing, so be prepared, they love roses. Also, watch for powdery mildew, blackspot, aphids, leafhoppers, and more pests and disease. Spray insecticide/fungicide as needed.
- Make the second application of fertilizer. Use the same directions as from May.
- Continue to deadhead and use roses for cut flowers.
- Continue to water as needed. Established roses need about 1" of water per week.

Shrubs:

- Continue planting.

- As the summer gets warmer and possibly drier, make sure you water new plantings well. Established plants may need supplemental watering during the hot summer.
- Do not fertilize.
- Aphids, mites, and Japanese beetles are now appearing in large numbers. Use an insecticidal soap or other insecticides to control them.
- Control the size of arborvitae, yews, and junipers now by pruning them once the new growth has expanded.
- Lightly sheer summer blooming spirea to remove faded flowers and encourage re-bloom.

Trees:

- Continue planting trees.
- Continue to monitor water needs, especially if the weather is hot and dry. Water thoroughly and less frequently to help establish deep roots.
- Renew mulch as needed.
- No need to fertilize, wait until next spring.
- Watch for aphid, mite and Japanese beetle damage and control with insecticidal soaps and insecticides.
- Continue to prune out dead, damaged, or diseased branches only.