

July Lawn & Garden To Do List

Trees and Shrubs

- Prune dead and damaged branches.
- Remove suckers by yanking downward.
- Stop pruning flowering shrubs until spring.
- Nonblooming hedges can be trimmed as needed.
- Deadhead roses for continued blooming.
- Apply chelated iron to deficient plants.
- Stop fertilizing trees and shrubs.
- Continue planting trees and shrubs, but water well.
- Apply extra mulch to hold in moisture
- Avoid disturbing the roots of shallow plants.
- Take softwood cuttings of shrubs.
- Water trees infrequently, but deeply.

Perennials and Bulbs

- Shear chrysanthemums and asters until mid month.
- Lightly trim bushy or leggy perennials.
- Stop deadheading perennials if you want seeds.
- Make one more planting of gladiolus.
- Support vines and tall plants with trellises.
- Cut flowers in the early morning.
- Order spring-blooming bulbs now.
- Divide and transplant Oriental poppies.

Annuals and Containers

- Water containers daily.
- Add a balanced fertilizer every few weeks.
- Deadhead faded blossoms for more blooms.
- Pinch back leggy stems to encourage branching.
- Start seeds for pansies and other winter annuals.

Lawns

- Continue mowing at the highest setting for your lawn type (3"- 4" for cool-season grasses, 2" -3" for warm-season grasses).
- Give your lawn one inch of water per week.
- Consider allowing fescue or bluegrass lawn to go dormant for the summer.
- Mulch your grass clippings.
- Edge planting beds with a string trimmer or edger.
- Plant warm-season grasses and keep watered.
- Stop fertilizing lawns in midsummer.
- Make sure mower blades are sharp.

Vegetables and Herbs

- Remove garlic scapes (flower heads).
- Order garlic bulbs for fall planting.
- Feed vegetables with compost or organic fertilizer.
- Harvest veggies and give away any produce you can't use.
- Remove plants that have finished producing.
- Continue weeding, watering, and removing insects.
- Start seeds for cool-season fall vegetables.
- Give herbs a haircut, and use the cuttings.
- Harvest herbs just as the flower buds appear.
- Mulch sprawling and vining vegetables.
- Harvest berries before birds and squirrels get them.
- Remove and discard fallen fruits and vegetables.
- Harvest corn when the tassels turn brown and the kernels are full and milky.
- Harvest melons when they slip easily from the vine.
- Give your tomatoes TLC in temps over 90° F.

Houseplants

- Put houseplants outdoors in the shade.
- Water houseplants regularly.
- Feed houseplants every couple of weeks.
- Repot pot-bound houseplants.

Cleanup and Maintenance

- Attack poison ivy the moment you spot it!
- Work outdoors in the cool of the morning.
- Add extra mulch to keep plant roots cool.
- Pull blooming weeds first.
- Start a compost pile, or turn your existing one.
- Clean the filter in your water features.
- Refresh the water in fountains and bird baths.
- Keep hummingbird feeders cleaned and refilled.
- Reduce fertilizing in general.
- Water plants deeply at the root zone.
- Remove Japanese beetles and other pests.
- Begin ordering bulbs and seeds for fall planting.
- Provide a pan of water for birds and butterflies.
- Take cuttings for rooting or drying indoors.