

Summer To Do

Summer Gardening Checklist

- **Fertilize** and water regularly especially container gardens. Fertilize container annuals and hanging baskets on a weekly basis using a liquid fertilizer (miracle-Gro, Daniels) or a slow release granular fertilizer like *Osmocote*.
- **Height Control** - Stake tall growing flowers (such as delphinium, hollyhocks, peonies, cosmos and cleome) put stakes and Grow-Through hoops in place as plants begin to grow. To control the height on certain perennials, visit wintergreenhouse.com. Go to the plant guide page and click on "Perennial Pruning". Pinch asters and mums before 4th of July.
- **Deadhead** annuals, perennials and roses to encourage continued blooming. Shear back Spireas after first flush of flowers.
- **Divide** and replant spring and early summer blooming perennials (e.g. Iris) after they have finished blooming. Divide daylilies when they have finished blooming. Daylilies benefit from division every 3 - 4 years.
- **Weeding** - Keep weeds pulled before they have a chance to get too big, flower and go to seed.
- **Slugs** - Control slugs and snails in shade and hosta gardens with *Sluggo Plus*.
- **Insect Damage** - Scout to identify all plants for insect pests; treat as necessary.
- **Mulch** plants to help retain moisture, control weeds and moderate soil temperature. Maintain a 2-3" layer of a good quality hardwood mulch.
- **Fruit Protection** - Protect small fruit plantings with bird netting to keep the birds from eating all the crop.
- **Weeding** - Keep weeds pulled before they have a chance to flower and go to seed.



Tips:

Plant cut flowers that will both delight birds, bees, butterflies, and can be used as cut flowers indoors and out.

Wear a hat & use sunprotection when out!

Summer Plants:

- **Bulbs:** Oriental and Asiatic Lilies, Ornamental Onions
- **Perennials:** Yarrow, Salvia, Daylily, Phlox, Bee Balm, Catnip
- **Grasses:** Feather Reed Grass, Switch Grass, Japanese Forest Grass
- **Shrubs:** Spirea, Weigela, Hydrangea, Roses
- **Trees:** Hydrangea Tree Form, Japanese Tree Lilac

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Garden Maintenance

Summer is the time when gardens really shine. With just a little help, vigilance and regular maintenance, your garden can truly look it's best. Everyone enjoys being outside on a nice sunny day. Unfortunately, those warm temperatures are appealing to insect pests and disease organisms as well. And just as we enjoy a cool refreshing beverage, so do our plants. Setting aside even 15-20 minutes a day just to walk around and check your garden's condition can help you stop a minor issue before it becomes a major problem. Plus, a walk around the garden is a great way to relax.

Watering - Early morning is the best time to water vegetable and flower gardens. The primary rule of watering is to water thoroughly and deeply each time and allow the soil to dry out between waterings.

Newly planted trees and shrubs should be watered more often so the root ball does not dry out. Treat them like a container the first few weeks.

Patio containers and hanging baskets will need daily watering as the temperatures rise, especially if they are exposed to the drying sunlight. Push your finger into the soil of the container or basket at least once per day (more often on hot, dry days) to feel for moisture and be certain the plants are getting enough water. Apply water until it runs out of the drainage holes. Hanging baskets need careful attention to watering and feeding during extended periods of hot weather.

Lawn Maintenance Checklist

- **Mowing** - Keep lawns mowed at 2-1/2-3". Taller grass helps cool the roots, keeps the moisture in the soil longer, and helps the grass out-compete the weeds.
- **Nitrogen** - Leave the grass clippings on the lawn as they provide a source of nitrogen for the grass. Disperse thick clumps with a rake or leaf blower.
- **Fertilize** - Apply *Classic Lawn Food* or *Organic Natural Guard* around Labor Day. Do not fertilize during hot, dry weather.
- **Green Lawns** - Lawns need one inch of water per week. You may choose to let your lawn go dormant during the heat of summer. It will green up again when the late summer /early fall rains return.



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