

Out in the Garden



Rockport Garden Club, June 2019



Horticultural Classroom: June in the Garden

Ray D. Everson said, “The philosopher who said that ‘work well done never needs doing over,’ never weeded a garden.” Weeding is instant gratification. To sit in a chair with a cool glass of lemonade and look upon a newly weeded garden is a true pleasure. But it is a pleasure short-lived. After just a few days all that hard work has disappeared, and we find ourselves grabbing our trusty tools and going on the attack.

A garden is ever-changing and ever-growing and June is a busy time in the garden. Weeds grow happily and must be pulled, shrubs and trees need feeding, flowers need deadheading, and perennials need dividing. It’s all part of maintaining a garden. Here are some “to do’s” for June garden maintenance:

- If you haven’t already mulched your garden, now is a good time. Apply a 2” – 3” layer to beds but keep mulch away from the base of tree trunks.
- Prune flowering trees and shrubs AFTER they have bloomed.
- Keep up with weeding. A stirrup hoe is a great tool to keep weeds under control without breaking your back.
- Deadhead perennials and annuals for continuing blooms. Go below the spent blossom along the stem and cut just above the next leaf or leaflets.
- Feed roses and annuals. (Annuals need to be fed about every 3 weeks.)
- If rain is scarce, water plants providing one inch weekly. It is better to give plants a deep watering



once a week rather than frequent shallow watering. With the current Town restrictions, this means you may have to rotate which plants to water on any given day in order to give them a sufficient drink and adhere to the one hour of water usage. Try to keep water at the base of the plant, and avoid wetting the leaves.

- You can still transplant plants, shrubs and trees, but be sure and keep them watered afterwards.
- Keep your tomato plants pruned, pinching out any suckers, for better production.
- Stake tall flowering plants and climbing vegetables NOW.

Most important of all, be sure and get out in your garden with a nice cold drink and enjoy the fruits of your labor! For more advice on June garden chores refer to:

<https://rockportgardenclub.org/june>.

Butterfly Garden Design Workshop

Kim Smith will lead a free workshop for RGC members on “Butterfly Garden Design,” Tuesday, July 16th, 9–11, 8 Graystone Road in Gloucester. This is a beautiful example of an established garden that the owner has been transitioning to include many more native wildflowers and pollinator plants. We will look at examples of natives, their benefit to wildlife, and how to cultivate. To sign up, email: moorbymary@gmail.com.

Happenings

- Butterfly Garden Design Workshop, July 16th, 9–11, 8 Graystone Road, Gloucester.
- Rockport in Bloom Garden Tour, July 26th & July 27th, 10–4. Rain or Shine. See RGC website for tickets.

Questions? Contact your Home Gardening Committee:

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