



Riverview Garden Club Helpful Hints

June 2018

HERBS-Check your basil plantings and remove all the cluster of flower buds that form at the stem ends as soon as you notice they are forming. This will encourage nice bushy plants and a continuing supply of leaves.

TREES-Mulch around trees to create a safe zone where your mower won't go. Nicking a tree trunk can seriously damage even a well-established tree.

LAWN-Mow your lawn according to the needs of the grass. Grasses thicken and provide better cover when regularly clipped at the proper height. Adjust your lawn mower blades to cut the grass at two or three inches rather than a one and one half inches. Water your lawn and gardens in the morning or late during the day to avoid any evaporation.

SHRUBS AND BUSHES-Prune rhododendrons after they flower. On young and old plants, snap off spent flower stalks by bending them over until they break away from their stems. Be careful not to damage growth buds at the base of each flower stalk.

ROSES-Fertilize roses using a liquid fertilizer at every watering or use a dry rose fertilizer. Continue spraying roses with a fungicide to prevent black spot disease.

PERENNIALS-Don't trim iris leaves into scallops or fan shapes after the flowers fade. Leaves carry on photosynthesis and develop nourishment for next year's growth. Cut off brown tips and remove the flowering stalk down to the rhizome. If you're dividing irises, cut the leaves back by about half just before you move them. Remove any dead flowers from your perennials to encourage new growth. Give perennials a fertilizer boost (5-10-10 formula).

VEGETABLES-All vegetable crops, including warm-season plants, should be planted now. Sow more beans, carrots, and beets for a continuous harvest. Start seedlings of broccoli, cauliflower, and cabbage now so they can be transplanted in the fall. Tomatoes, squash, and cucumbers can use some nutrients now, so scratch some granular fertilizer into the soil around

plants. The fruiting of tomatoes and peppers is improved by applying Epsom salts, which contains sulfur and magnesium. Apply one tablespoon of granules around each transplant, or spray a solution of one tablespoon Epsom salts per gallon of water at transplanting, first flowering, and fruit set.

ANNUALS-Plant colorful summer annuals, such as cosmos, marigolds, salvia, or petunias. Rhizomatous begonias are not just for shade. Many varieties, especially those with bronze foliage, do well in full sun if given plenty of water and a well-drained site.

--Sandy



Exercise is good for all of us!