



“From the Potting Shed”

Riverview Garden Club

July Helpful Hints

2026

July has arrived with the first heat wave of the summer! To help your plants cope with extreme heat, keep plants well-watered. Remember to water early in the day, possibly twice a day for container plants, and always water deeply by directing water to the roots of the plant. In addition, here are some chores to include in your Summer Garden Checklist.

Things to do in the garden this month...

Chores and Maintenance:

- If the weather is dry, practice water-wise horticultural techniques
- Determine which plants are most important and water them first
- Water plants early in the day through drip irrigation or handheld hose
- Reapply mulch to help conserve moisture
- During hot weather, raise your mower's height around 1/2 inch. Taller blades of grass shade the soil, reduce moisture loss, and help roots withstand heat and drought.
- Allow lawns to go dormant; they will green up again when rain returns
- Continue to remove weeds which compete for water
- Continue to stake floppy plants and vines
- Continue to aerate and moisten compost pile to speed decomposition
- Continue to apply acid mulch to rhododendrons, azaleas and other ericaceous ornamentals
- Apply a summer mulch to rose beds to preserve moisture and control weeds
- Deadhead annuals and perennials to encourage continuous bloom and cut back any rampant growth
- Continue to replant any houseplants as needed
- Continue to lift, divide and propagate spring-flowering perennials
- Continue to spray roses weekly with a **baking soda fungicide** (*Cornell University's formula consists of 3 tsp. baking soda, 2 1/2 tbsp. summer-weight horticultural oil, mixed with 1 gallon of water*)
- Remove any fallen leaves and debris which can harbor insect pests and disease organisms

- Pinch back asters and chrysanthemums one last time
- Finish deadheading rhododendrons and lilacs
- Continue to apply deer repellent

Planting:

- Sow seeds of lettuce, kale, broccoli, cabbage, radishes and arugula for fall harvest
- Sow seeds of zinnias for extending bloom into the fall
- Continue to propagate shrubs from softwood cuttings
- Propagate spring-flowering perennials
- Propagate herbs from cuttings
- Continue transplanting container grown plants

Pruning/ Fertilizing:

- Deadhead hybrid tea, grandiflora, floribunda, miniature, repeat-blooming shrub and climbing roses
- Prune climbing roses after flowering
- Prune and thin large shade trees to increase light for lawns and planting beds
- Prune evergreens and deciduous and evergreen hedges into early summer
- Prune all raspberry canes which have completed fruiting, to the ground
- Fertilize broad-leaf, flowering, evergreen shrubs with topdressing of oak leaf compost and/or cottonseed meal
- Fertilize needle evergreens with acid type fertilizer
- Fertilize roses
- Continue to fertilize annuals and container plants each month
- Fertilize chrysanthemums every 2 to 3 weeks until buds form
- Fertilize vegetables
- Leave nitrogen-rich grass clippings on lawn

Resource: New York Botanical Garden Plant and Research Guides, “Summer Gardening Chores: July”, March 24, 2026.

Happy Gardening and Stay Cool!