



# Riverview Garden Club Helpful Hints



**June 2019**

Now that the weather has warmed up to be outdoors most of the day, don't forget to stay hydrated, rest and observe your outdoor world, and notice the small critters that visit your yard. A fifteen minute break every couple of hours of outdoor work will revitalize you to go back and finish your chores.

**ORNAMENTALS:** Deadhead bulbs and spring flowering perennials as blossoms fade. Watch for bagworms feeding on many garden plants, but especially juniper and arborvitae. Prune rhododendrons after they flower by snapping 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.

**HOUSEPLANTS:** When night temperatures stay above 50 degrees, bring houseplants outdoors for the summer. Most houseplants brought outside prefer a bright spot shaded from afternoon sun and check moisture daily during hot weather. Elevate your container plantings so water can drain.

**ROSES:** Continue spraying roses with a fungicide to prevent black spot disease. Apply a balanced rose fertilizer after the first show of blooms is past.

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

**TREES and SHRUBS:** Apply a second spray for borer control on hardwood trees. Softwood cuttings can be taken from trees and shrubs as the spring flush of growth is beginning to mature. Trees and shrubs may still be fertilized before July 4<sup>th</sup>. Pruning of spring flowering trees and shrubs should be completed before the month's end. Try mulching 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.

**Lawns:** Water turf as needed to prevent drought stress. Zoysia can be fertilized now while actively growing, but do not exceed 2-3 pounds of

actual nitrogen fertilizer per 1000 sq. ft. per year. Gradually increase the mowing height of zoysia lawns throughout the summer so by September the mowing height should be 2 to 2 ½ inches. Dethatch zoysia lawns as new growth begins to keep the lawn vigorous and reduce disease problems. Mow bluegrass at 2 to 3 1/2 inches in height. Turf grasses growing in shaded conditions should be mowed at the higher recommendations. Stop fertilizing cool-season grasses until fall.

**VEGETABLES:** Stop harvesting asparagus when the spears become thin. Start seedlings of broccoli, cabbage, and cauliflower to provide transplants for the fall garden. As soon as cucumber and squash vines start to run, begin spray treatments to control cucumber beetles and squash vine borers. You can plant pumpkins now to have Jack-o-lanterns for Halloween. To minimize diseases, try watering with overhead irrigation early enough in the day to allow foliage to dry before nightfall. Pull soil up against potato plants when they are 9 to 12 inches tall. Sow more beans, carrots, and beets for a continuous harvest. The fruiting of tomatoes and peppers is improved by applying one tablespoon of Epson salts (contains sulfur and magnesium) per gallon of water at transplanting, first flowering and fruit set.

**MISCELLANEOUS:** When using any gas powered equipment, be sure to allow the engine a few minutes to cool before refilling empty fuel tanks. A mailbox mounted on a nearby post makes a handy place to store and keep dry any small tools, seeds, and labels frequently used in the garden. Be sure to weed your gardens regularly as the weeds will compete with your plants for water and nutrients.

**HERBS:** Watch your basil plantings and remove all the clusters of flower buds that form at the stem ends to encourage nice bush plants and a continuing supply of leaves.



--Sandy