



“From the Potting Shed”

Riverview Garden Club - June Helpful Hints

2022

Summer officially arrives on June 21st, bringing warmer temperatures and extra sunlight. Flowers are blossoming, there’s lots to harvest in the vegetable garden, and keeping on top of weeds is a priority this month!

Things to do in the garden this month...

Encourage Pollinators and Wildlife to Visit Your Garden

- Attract more birds, bees, and butterflies by planting more native plants that wildlife love
- Some of the best perennials for wildlife include native goldenrod, sunflowers, Joe Pye weed, iron weed, Baptisia, Yarrow, Helenium, cardinal flower, and spicebush
- Give Plants a Light Pruning
- Add annual wildflower seeds for instant color and to attract pollinators.
- Avoid using toxic pesticides that are harmful to beneficial insects and birds

Prune Trees and Shrubs

- Continue to prune all plant material to remove any diseased, dead, weak or crossed branches
- Complete pruning early spring-flowering shrubs
- Prune evergreens and evergreen hedges into early summer
- Deadhead rhododendrons, lilacs and perennials after flowering
- Wait until blooms have faded before pruning larger sections or branches
- Pruning will stimulate new growth and focus the plant’s energy on the right branches
- Continue deadheading roses

Fertilize Plants

- Fertilize roses after peak bloom
- Complete fertilizing spring-flowering bulbs
- Fertilize annuals, container plants and vegetables according to label directions
- Fertilize needle evergreens with acid type fertilizer

Refresh Container Gardens

- Remove any plants that are past their prime and either compost them or move them to another area of the garden
- Save spring-blooming bulbs to use again next year
- Fill empty spots in your container gardens with summer and fall-blooming perennials such as Echinacea, Rudbeckia, Dahlias or mums
- Add ornamental grasses to fill in gaps in planters-- be sure your containers have adequate drainage

Tend the Vegetable Patch

- Plant vegetables in succession for harvesting vegetables in late summer and even into fall, plant crops in succession
- Wait a week or two between plantings so they mature at different times
- Lettuce, kale, carrots, beets, radishes, Swiss chard, herbs, tomatoes, and beans are crops are perfect for succession planting
- Plant peppers and eggplants-get these warm-season crops in the ground now
- To be successful, peppers and eggplants should be transplanted and well into their growth cycle by mid-June
- Keep areas around these plants weeded so they get all the water they need to produce their tasty flavors
- Harvest cool weather lettuce, radishes and scallions
- Direct sow varieties like Beans, Pumpkins, Corn, Zucchini, Cucumbers, and Lettuce
- Set supports for floppy plants, vines and vegetables
- Continue to check for pests and other problems and treat as necessary

Chores and Maintenance

- Continue to cultivate planting beds to remove weeds
- Continue to dig and divide early-blooming perennials after flowering
- Water as necessary (if it doesn't rain, supplement with one inch of water/week for plants, shrubs, lawn areas)
- Add to, aerate and moisten compost pile to speed decomposition
- Mow lawns regularly to keep grass at 2 to 2 1/2 " height
- Leave grass clippings on lawn to improve availability of nitrogen
- Begin to spray roses every week with baking soda solution to protect against black spot disease (**Cornell University's formula consists of: 3 tsp. baking soda, 2 1/2 tbsp. summer-weight horticultural oil, mixed with 1 gallon of water**)
- Continue application of deer repellents

Happy Summer and Happy Gardening!