



“From the Potting Shed”

Riverview Garden Club – Helpful Hints

June 2024

Gardens are in a surge of growth this month for gardeners in Zones 6 and 7. Here are some June gardening tasks to keep your gardens in tip-top shape as we zoom into the heat of summer.

Things to do in the garden this month...

Chores and Maintenance:

- Continue to cultivate planting beds to remove weeds.
- Continue to dig and divide early blooming perennials after flowering
- Water, water, water as necessary
- Continue to mulch planting beds.
- Set supports for floppy plants, vines and vegetables.
- Deadhead rhododendrons, lilacs and perennials after flowering.
- Add to, aerate and moisten compost pile to speed decomposition.
- Continue to check for pests and other problems and treat as necessary.
- Mow lawns regularly to keep grass at 2 to 2 1/2 " height.
- Leave grass clippings on lawn to improve availability of nitrogen.
- Water lawns if there is less than 1" of rain per week.
- Harvest cool weather lettuce, radishes, and scallions.
- *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

Planting:

- Complete moving self-sown annuals and perennials to desired locations
- Sow seeds of fast-growing annuals like marigolds, zinnias and cosmos directly in the garden
- Sow seeds of heat-tolerant vegetables
- Continue to plant and transplant perennials, weather and soil conditions permitting.
- Finish planting summer annuals.
- Complete planting summer flowering bulbs, such as canna, gladiolus and dahlias
- Plant caladium and tuberous begonias in shady spots.

Weeding:

- Walk your landscape and pluck weeds out completely. Weeds are easier to pull when they are young.
- Weed regularly so that unwanted plants do not have a chance to reseed themselves, leading to more significant problems.
- Use organic weed control methods like pouring boiling water on weeds or spraying weeds with a mixture of white vinegar and dish soap to kill weeds.
- Add mulch to your garden or plant ground cover anywhere you see bare soil.
- After weeding, if you haven't done so already, add a couple of inches of organic mulch to your garden beds to keep weeds from propagating further.

Pruning/ Fertilizing:

- 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.
- Continue deadheading roses.
- Fertilize roses after peak bloom.

- Complete fertilizing spring-flowering bulbs
- Fertilize annuals and container plants.
- Fertilize vegetables.
- Add compost and fertilize your fruit trees to give them a boost.
- Reapply fertilizer to flowering annuals, hanging baskets, container gardens, and vegetables.
- Always fertilize after you have weeded so that you are not feeding the weeds!

Watering

- Container plants and hanging baskets may need water daily now that they have established themselves and the temperatures have risen.
- Water perennial plants, vegetable gardens, and shrubs thoroughly and allow plants to dry adequately between watering.
- Ensure that your drip irrigation system is set up correctly and is in good working order before the heat of summer rolls in.
- Remember to dump standing water! Mosquitoes can reproduce like wildfire in even the tiniest bit of standing water. Patrol your yard and garden and dump out standing water from catch basins under containers, low spots in the garden where water pools, stagnant birdbaths, and any other water catcher.

Sources:

New York Botanical Garden, LuEster T. Mertz Library: Plant & Research Guides, Summer Garden Chores for June, May 24, 2024.

Kellogg Garden Products, Summer Gardening: June Checklist Zones 6-8.

Happy Gardening!