



“From the Potting Shed”

Riverview Garden Club Helpful Hints

June 2026

June is here, and your garden’s buzzing with life! With temperatures rising and plants growing fast, now’s the time to complete important tasks that will keep your blooms vibrant, veggies productive, and pests at bay. Here are 10 garden chores to help you stay ahead of the game. June, is also a great time to prune spring-blooming shrubs, certain perennials, and some of your herbs.

Things to do in the garden this month:

1. Deadhead Spent Flowers for Continuous Blooms

Snip faded blooms from annuals and perennials like petunias, daisies, and roses to trigger fresh flowers and keep beds looking tidy.

2. Mulch Now to Lock in Moisture

Spread 2–3 inches of mulch (bark, straw, or compost) around plants to conserve water and block weeds as summer heat ramps up.

3. Feed Hungry Plants

Fertilize vegetables, annuals, and perennials with a balanced 10-10-10 formula to support lush foliage and steady blooms.

4. Stake Fast-Growing Tomatoes and Tall Plants

Support fast-climbing tomatoes, delphiniums, and dahlias now before they sprawl.

5. Water Deeply, Not Frequently

Shift to deep watering once or twice a week to build drought-resistant roots and reduce surface evaporation.

6. Scout for Pests Before They Take Over

Inspect leaves and stems for aphids, beetles, and squash bugs. Use neem oil, insecticidal soap, or hand-pick to stay in control.

7. Harvest Early Crops

Pick mature lettuce, spinach, peas, and radishes to encourage continued production and make room for succession planting.

8. Succession Plant for a Summer Bounty

Sow new rounds of quick-maturing crops like beans, carrots, or zucchini now to keep the harvest rolling into late summer.

9. Prune Spring Bloomers

Trim back lilacs, forsythia, and other spring-flowering shrubs right after they finish blooming to shape them and set up strong blooms next year.

10. Check Container Plants Daily

Potted plants dry quickly in early summer. Water daily in heat, feed weekly, and rotate pots for even growth.

Prune Spring Flowering Shrubs, Certain Perennials and Some Herbs

Timing is everything when pruning shrubs and plants. Trim these key plants now to boost growth, prevent disease, and keep your garden thriving through summer.

Lilacs

The best time to prune a lilac shrub is right after it has finished blooming. As a late spring bloomer, lilac will be ready to prune in early June in many gardens. Your lilac will start setting next year's buds right away after flowering, so avoid pruning too late in summer or in fall. When pruning lilacs, trim out dead or diseased stems and any that are larger than two inches in diameter. Trim younger stems to an outward-facing bud partway down their length to help the shrub fill in as it grows.

Forsythia

Like with lilac, prune forsythia right after blooming. Later trimming risks removing next year's flower buds. Exactly when you will prune your forsythia depends on your climate zone and the weather. Forsythia generally finishes blooming in May. Remove about a quarter of older branches and then shape and remove smaller stems to open up the interior of the shrub and to shape it.

Mock Orange

Mock orange is a popular spring-flowering shrub for its orange blossom aroma in addition to pretty white blooms. It's also a great shrub for low-maintenance gardens. If you don't get around to pruning it in June, you can leave it until next year without serious consequences.

If it needs shaping and size control, prune mock orange soon after it flowers, typically in June. Trim back about a third of the shrub to maintain the size. Cut back the oldest, woodiest stems all the way to the ground.

Joe-Pye Weed

Taller summer perennials can benefit from a trim in June to keep them a little shorter and to encourage bushier growth. Joe-Pye Weed can grow very tall, which can lead to weaker stems flopping over in late summer. Avoid this by cutting the stems down in June by about a third. This might delay flowering a little, but it will give you more manageable, attractive plants when they do bloom.

Bee Balm

Heavy-flowering summer perennials like bee balm do not require heavy pruning for shaping or size management. However, they benefit from some maintenance work in early summer. Deadhead the spent flowers to encourage additional blooms and trim back the stems lightly to encourage branching and bushier growth.

Asters

Asters are great examples of fall perennials that can be pruned in June. One strategy is to simply pinch off stems or lightly trim out stems entirely to encourage bushier growth. Another strategy is a more drastic cut. When pruning asters, trim all the shoots back by about half in June and then shape them as needed. This move will give you a shapelier, more attractive plant.

Chives

June is the right time to cut back or pinch certain herbs, especially those that bloom early or tend to bolt in the hot weather of midsummer. After chives have flowered, cut most of the way back. They'll regrow from this point and give you an additional harvest.

Cilantro and Basil

Cilantro and Basil both readily bolt in hot summer weather. June might be a little early to worry about it, but it's when you should begin keeping an eye on the plants. Pinch off flower buds as soon as you see them growing, and keep the plants well-watered as the temperatures climb. Keeping the flowers from growing will extend your harvest time. Once they flower, the leaves do not taste as good. June is also the right time to pinch your basil plant and harvest cilantro stems to promote more new growth, which will also help extend the harvest.

Resources:

“June’s 10 Must-Do Garden Tasks for a Thriving Summer”, **GrowJoy** Gardening Blog, June, 2, 2025.

“8 Plants You Should Always Prune in June”, Mary Ellen Ellis, **Gardening Know How**, June 5, 2025.

Happy Gardening!