

July in the Garden

Planning

Order spring-flowering bulbs. Browse catalogs for new varieties or old favorites.

Planting

Plant cool-season vegetables for autumn harvest. Kale, turnips, broccoli, and beans to name a few can be planted late summer for your enjoyment in the fall.

Fertilizing and Watering

Be diligent watering your plants when it is really hot. Container plants especially need extra water, sometimes twice a day if they are in the sun.

Avoid using fertilizers in hot, dry weather.

Do not fertilize trees or shrubs after mid-July. Fertilizing will encourage tender new growth that won't have time to harden off before winter.

Deep water trees, shrubs and roses by soaking a couple of times during hot weather. Let a hose run slowly enough for the water to soak into the ground directly beneath the plant.

Do not fertilize trees or shrubs, especially fruit trees after mid-July. Fertilizing will encourage tender new growth that will not harden off in time to avoid winter injury.

Water gardens and lawns in the early morning or late evening when temperatures are low to avoid water loss due to evaporation.

What better time than July to sit in your beautiful garden, sipping lemonade in the sunshine.

What better time to spend perusing the bulb catalogs that have arrived?

Lawns

Lawns go somewhat dormant in hot weather and don't need fertilizer but they do need water.

Water the lawn deeply when the top one or two inches of soil are dry. It will require time to properly saturate the soil. Contact your Extension Office for information on watering. Mow your lawn in a different direction every time. Varying your path will help the turf and soil won't form compacted mower ruts.

Garden and Plant Maintenance

Disbud roses and other flowering plants for larger blooms. Pinch annuals and perennials until midmonth.

Be alert to slug and snail damage. Eliminate hiding places and unnecessary plant growth and use traps as needed.

Keep weeding! Weeds compete with desired plants for nutrients and precious water. The best methods for weed removal are hand pulling and hoeing.

To discourage mites, hose dust from evergreens and leafy shrubs plants in the garden. Mites are hot weather pests that thrive on the dusty undersides of leaves. They suck plant sap and make leaves look yellow. Daily sprays with hard sprays of water will dislodge dust and mites, preventing buildup of either.

Continue mulching around landscape plants and between garden rows. Grass clippings, shredded leaves, straw and pine needles make good mulching materials. They help maintain soil moisture throughout the year.

Bearded iris may be divided and replanted when they finish blooming.

Remove sucker growth from trees and shrubs.