

Let's Garden!

What TO DO in Your Garden this SUMMER

Summer is a lovely time in the garden. Since St. Louis summer heat can dry the soil quickly, make sure to water gardens and lawns deeply to encourage good strong root systems. Supplement natural rainfall so that plants receive about 1" of water per week. Watering early in the day reduces the risk of fungus diseases.

FLOWERS

- Monitor watering of all plants! Check container plants and hanging baskets daily and water deeply!
- With care, planting can continue all summer long. To help reduce stress, avoid planting or transplanting when the temperature is over 85 degrees or during the hottest time of the day. Reduce transplant shock by watering in new-plantings with **Fertilome Root Stimulator**. Keep new plants well watered until established.
- Staking flowers as they grow ensures straight growth and protects neighboring plants. Apply **Super-Phosphate** to floppy plants to strengthen stems and increase blooms.
- Apply **Liquid Fence** every 10-14 days to deter rabbits and squirrels.
- Remove weeds in beds and borders, and then apply **Hose'em Weed Stopper** or **Miracle Grow Garden Weed Prevent** to prevent new weeds from growing. Use a non-selective weed killer such as **Round Up** or **Safer Weed & Grass Killer Organic herbicide** to kill unwanted existing weeds and grass being careful to NOT spray on desirable plants
- Apply **Shredded Bark Mulch** to a depth of 2". This reduces weeds and conserves water.
- Holes in your hosta leaves can be a sign of slug or snail damage. Scatter organic controls such as **Sluggo or Natural Guard Crawling Insect Control** under affected plants.
- Clean up all diseased foliage on perennials to prevent spread of fungal diseases. Apply **Fertilome Dusting Sulfur** or **Safer Garden Fungicide** at the first sign of disease, and reapply until all signs of fungus disease disappear.
- In July, plant sunflower seeds for bloom in October for an attractive fall display.
- If not planted with **Osmocote**, fertilize annuals bi-monthly using **Miracle-Gro All Purpose or Liqua-Feed**.
- Miracid** or **Holly-Tone** should be used on acid-loving plants such as gardenia, jasmine, orchids, and ferns.
- Organic fertilizers such as **Fish Emulsion Fertilizer, Natures Creation Liquid Plant Food, or Garden Ville Sea Tea** may be used every two weeks. The organics are non-burning (especially important in the hot weather!) and add many of the minerals that get washed out by daily watering.
- If perennials have been fertilized with **Pro-Start** in the spring, they should not need fertilizer again in the summer.
- When perennials such as Bleeding Heart, Oriental Poppies, or Trillium die-back in the summer, clean up withered foliage and plant annuals for summer color.
- Remove dead foliage from bulbs. Lift, divide & store spring bulbs. Replant in October & feed with **Dutch Bulb Food**.
- Mosquito larvae will not develop in water that is circulated with a pump or fountain. For ponds or water bowls that do not have circulated water, use **Mosquito Dunks** to kill the mosquito larvae.

HOUSE PLANTS

- Place tropical plants outside, in the shade, water and feed regularly as they will grow quickly in such ideal conditions.
- Summer is a good time to repot houseplants and orchids. Fertilize Orchids with **Jack's Classic Orchid Food**.
- In late August, prepare to bring plants indoors by spraying with **Saf-T-Side Spray Oil Emulsion Insecticide** to kill any insects.

ROSES

- To prevent black-spot and fungus diseases, *do not* water the foliage! Hand water at the base of the plant or use soaker hoses buried in mulch. If overhead watering is necessary, make sure to water early in the morning so that water

evaporates from the foliage quickly.

- ❑ Fertilize every six weeks with *Bayer All-in-One Rose & Flower Care*, which contains systemic insecticide and fungicide or *Rose-Tone Organic Rose Food*. Do not apply after August 15th.
- ❑ Remove all yellowed and black-spotted foliage. Spray every 7 to 10 days with *Ortho Pride Disease Control* or *Safer Garden Fungicide*.
- ❑ Apply *Sevin* for control of Japanese Beetles, or use *Japanese Beetle Traps* at the first sign of chewed leaves.

VEGETABLES & HERBS

- ❑ Fertilize vegetables bi-monthly using *Miracle-Gro* or *Hi-Yield Garden Fertilizer*. Organic fertilizers such as *Fish Emulsion Fertilizer* and *Plant-Tone* may be used every week since the organics are non-burning and add many minerals that get washed out by frequent watering.
- ❑ Consistent watering is important. Inconsistent watering can cause tomatoes to crack and blossom end rot to occur.
- ❑ **JUNE through JULY**. Repeat plantings of corn, peas, and beans to extend harvest. Renovate strawberries after first harvest—thin out excess plants, remove weeds, fertilize with *Pro-Start* and apply a layer of *Soil Perfector* and mulch for weed control. As soon as cucumber and squash vines begin to run, start dusting with *Vegetable and Flower Dust* to control cucumber beetles and squash vine borers. Plant pumpkins to have ready for Halloween.
- ❑ **AUGUST**. Set out broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower transplants for fall garden. Sow seeds of spinach, carrots, collards, kale, sweet corn, summer squash, lettuce, beets, turnips, winter radish, cilantro and dill. Harvest onions and garlic when the tops turn brown.

LAWN

- ❑ Mow grass as necessary to a length of 3" to 3 1/2". Water deeply and early in the day to encourage deep rooting and discourage fungus disease. Cut slightly higher if the weather is especially dry and hot.
- ❑ Fertilize monthly warm-season lawns such as zoysia with *Fertil-lome Lawn Food Plus Iron*. In August, zoysia lawns should receive their final fertilizer application.
- ❑ Monitor lawns for newly hatched white grubs and apply *Bayers Advanced Grub Control* or *Milky Spore* to kill Japanese Beetle Grubs. After July 1, use *24 Hour Grub Control*.
- ❑ Apply *Sedge Hammer Turf Herbicide* to control nutsedge.
- ❑ Spray *Weed Out* to Kill any broadleaf weeds in the lawn when the temperature is below 80 degrees. Water the lawn a day before spraying. New grass seed can be sowed 30 days later.
- ❑ Use *Concern All Natural Weed Prevention Plus* with Corn Gluten as an organic weed pre-emergent and lawn fertilizer in late summer.

TREES & SHRUBS

- ❑ Trees and shrubs may be planted throughout the summer. To reduce stress, plant in the early morning or late afternoon and water thoroughly. An application of *Wilt Pruf* immediately before transplanting can also reduce transplant shock. After transplanting, use *Root Stimulator* to help the plant become established.
- ❑ Use a *Treegator* portable drip irrigation bag to assure proper watering of newly planted trees and shrubs.
- ❑ Fertilize trees and shrubs before July 4th. Use *Tree-Tone* Organic Fertilizer or *Ross Fertilizer Stakes for Trees & Shrubs* or *Ross Fertilizer Stakes for Evergreens*.
- ❑ Watch for spider mite activity. Hose off affected foliage on a regular basis to reduce activity. It may be too hot to use chemical pesticides, but organic *Safer BioNeem* or *Safer Soap* can be effective.
- ❑ Watch for Japanese Beetles...they can destroy a plant within days! Apply *Sevin* at the first sign of a Japanese beetle or use *Japanese Beetle Traps*.
- ❑ To treat blight or die-back in your azaleas and rhododendrons, apply *Hi-Yield Bordeaux Mix Fungicide*.
- ❑ If leaves appear yellow or faded, an iron deficiency called chlorosis may exist. Apply *Copperas*, *Holly Tone* or *Liquid Iron* to encourage vigorous, dark green growth.
- ❑ *Bayers Advanced Tree & Shrub Insect Control* will prevent damage from aphids, spider mites, thrips and leaf miners.