

June Gardening Calendar

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June is a transitional month. Days begin to warm but night temperatures can still be cool.

General: Begin summer watering in earnest, using drip irrigation, if possible. Otherwise, water early in the day to allow leaves to dry and help prevent fungal diseases. Water deeply but infrequently, as needed, to encourage roots to go deeper. To conserve moisture, add 2 to 3 inches of mulch to your garden beds and around trees and shrubs. Patrol for slugs and aphids.

Flowers: Plant annuals. Deadhead faded flowers for more blooms. Water containers regularly; small containers and hanging baskets may need water daily. Stake plants that get top-heavy. Trim back perennials after blooming is finished. Note crowding for dividing and moving in the fall. Remove foliage from spring-flowering bulbs after it has died back naturally. Then divide, if necessary, and replant or store until fall. Continue to plant dahlias, begonias and gladioli. Deadhead roses and fertilize every four weeks; check for mildew and black spot and remove and discard affected leaves. Do not compost diseased plant parts. For bushier plants with more blossoms, pinch back chrysanthemums about ½ inch when new growth reaches six inches. Do not pinch back after Independence Day. Plant fall-blooming perennials and bulbs (e.g. Star of Bethlehem, autumn crocus, hardy cyclamen and snowdrops).

Shrubs: Plant shrubs in containers but not in the ground, especially peonies.

Trees: Wait until fall to plant trees. Fertilize young trees with slow-release fertilizer and water regularly and deeply. Prune Japanese maples, removing dead branches and thinning lightly, if needed. Watch for tent caterpillars; strip or prune out and destroy nests and caterpillars as soon as noticed.

Fruit trees: Except for cherries, when fruit is the size of a marble, thin to one fruit per cluster, spacing fruit 6 to 8 inches apart on the branches. Dispose of thinned fruit so it doesn't become a source of disease.

Veggies: Transplant warm-season vegetables and herb starts (e.g., tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, corn and basil). Place tomatoes and basil in the warmest available spot (e.g., on the south side of the house with full sun exposure) and cover when night temperatures are below 50 degrees. To optimize sun and heat, plant tomatoes in containers on a moveable platform such as a wagon and move plants into sunny

locations during the day and warmer locations at night. To avoid diseases, space tomatoes properly and support the plants (e.g., using stakes, cages or trellises) for good air circulation.

Stop harvesting asparagus when spears become smaller than a pencil. Fertilize and allow tops to grow and store food for next year's crop. Watch for leafminers on beets, chard and spinach and remove and discard infested leaves. Handpick caterpillars found on leaves.

Lawns: Unless letting your lawn go dormant over the summer, water deeply at least twice a month and fertilize once during the last half of the month. Mow often enough to remove only one-third of the growing blade. Continue "grass cycling," leaving clippings on lawn. Avoid aerating lawns in early summer months to prevent damage of new growth.