



SUMMER SEASONAL TIPS

JUNE

- Your spring bulbs are through blooming. You can cut them off at the ground and let them dry naturally, or you can cut off the blossoms, bend them over and tie up the foliage. When the foliage is dry, just pick it up and leave the bulb alone to bloom next year.
- Bait for slugs: We prefer using herbs like Rosemary and mint, or crushed egg shells around the plants you want to protect. Another environmentally safe alternative is a small bowl with stale beer or grape juice to attract and drown the slugs. Organic or natural slug baits are available. Check to make sure they are safe for pets. Read the label.
- Your roses may be through with the first blooming. For a lot of new roses, just top them off and you will be rewarded with a lot of flowers. For single stemmed roses, cut them back to the first five leaf eye. Time to apply another organic fertilization for your roses to maintain summer health.
- Always look for compost material - flowers that are cut off, lawn clippings or any material that will decompose makes a great addition to your compost bin.
- You should be on your third turf fertilization this month. Hopefully, with the first two, you were able to give the moss a knock-out blow. Keep your lawn watering to morning hours to reduce the chance of disease.
- Make sure your irrigation system is turned on and optimized. June is the start of the watering months for our area as we go into longer day length.
- Any compost material that you place around the base of shrubbery and trees will keep them damp through the summer with a lot less watering.
- Suckers are now appearing on lots of your trees and shrubs. Keep up with the pruning during the next couple of months.



JULY



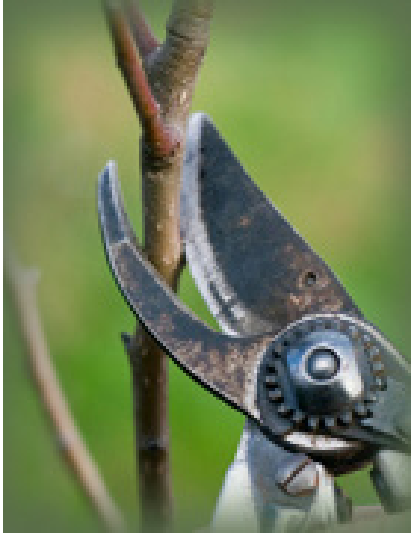
- The new growth on your evergreen hedges can be sheared back to at least one inch of the new growth. New needles will come from that new growth as we go into summer.
- The buds are now forming on your shrubs that will bloom next spring. Don't prune them now or you will miss the flowers next spring. Be sure to keep those plants watered 2 to 3 times per week. Remember that trees and shrubs require less water than the lawn.
- Your spring bulbs are through blooming now, and the foliage is completely dried up. You can remove the bulbs and store them for the summer, or take your chances and see what comes up next spring.
- Your spring perennials are probably cut back now, and you could bring more color into your garden by adding annuals in 4" pots. They will be blooming immediately.
- Keep working those roses. Cutting them back to strong growth, just above a five leaf eye will continue to yield an abundance of flowers.
- Make sure you keep water on your flowers and lawn. Keep the watering schedule for your lawn of two days off before mowing, two days on, one day off, then two more on.
- Keep your compost pile moist to speed up the process.
- Continue mowing high at about 2 1/2" to help maintain good color and decrease drought stress.



SUMMER SEASONAL TIPS



AUGUST



- Gardening in August is usually a maintenance month. Keeping the garden wet and weeded is very important.
- Container materials must have an application of fertilizer. One handful of a complete fertilizer is equal to a tablespoon. Time for that fourth application for your turf.
- If your conifers are showing a browning, it will mean a mite attack, and you will have to spray with a contact type of material. One spray will answer the problem. Natural and organic materials are available.
- If you have trees that take away your view, they could now be pruned and thinned so you could see through them. There will be no more growth this year.
- The new buds that are showing on your rhododendrons, camellias, and azaleas will need plenty of water under the drip line of the plant so the buds will develop.
- Lawns that border sidewalks and driveways may need more water than open areas. Make necessary adjustments to your irrigation controller.
- It's a good idea to watch your irrigation system run through a cycle to see if adjustments are needed.
- Boxwoods, laurel, juniper, cotoneaster, and other ground cover can be sheared or pruned now. Little to no growth will occur the rest of the year.