



June – Tips and Tasks

Top Priorities



- **Plant/Transplant**
 - Planters and baskets.
 - Finish planting annuals.
 - Warm season flowers such as Zinnias, Sunflowers, and Cosmos can still be started in June from seed.
- **Prune/Deadhead**
 - Perennials and shrubs after flowering
 - Annuals to promote flushes of new flowers.
 - Indeterminate tomato varieties and remove any yellow leaves.
- **Water**
 - Newly planted trees and shrubs need regular watering for the first two years until they get established. Native plants have a tendency to get established more quickly. Use a rain gauge to help monitor natural precipitation.
- **Harvest**
 - Harvest ripe fruit such as strawberries to avoid the spread of disease.

Next Steps



- **Fertilize**
 - Some plants do well with monthly fertilizing such as Roses and Clematis. Planters and baskets perform best with liquid fertilizers.
- **Weed**
 - Hand weed. Spread mulch on bare spots, Consider natural, organic products for hard to hand weed areas. Weeds are easier to control when they are pulled young.
- **Check for pests and treat as necessary**
 - Hemlock for Adelgids
 - Peonies for Botrytis Leaf Spot
 - Roses for Aphids and Spider Mites (See our Pamphlets)
 - Crabapple for Fire Blight
 - Red day lilies for Thrips
 - Any plant that had Spider Mites last year
 - Pines for caterpillars
 - Identify Ash trees for consideration of treatment of borers
 - Barberries for webworms (caterpillars)
 - Fothergillas for Black Weevils
 - Vegetables for insects (see our new pamphlet)

Better Impact



- **Deer and Rabbit control**
 - Apply environmentally friendly repellants in rotation.
- **Mosquito control**
 - Remove standing water once a week like birdbaths and flowerpot saucers.
- **Pump up the pollinators**
 - Investigate adding edibles to your flower gardens. For herbs think Chive, Lavender and Rosemary. Fill in gaps with quick growing beautiful Swiss Chard or plant edibles like Peppers in containers.
- **Plan for Fall Planting**
 - Start shopping for fall planting bulbs so you are ready to plant in the cooler months.

Extras

- Learn how to capture and reuse runoff water safely:
<https://ext.vt.edu/agriculture/commercial-horticulture/irrigation-pathogens.html>
- Summer is a great time to learn about warm season grasses:
<https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/418/418-004/418-004.html>
- Lettuce can be such an easy fast and rewarding crop to grow in many settings. Want to learn about growing lettuce in summer?
<https://piedmontmastergardeners.org/article/summer-lettuce-to-grow-or-not-to-grow/>

