



July – Tips and Tasks

Top Priorities



- **Watering**
 - Ensure deep watering early in the morning or late in the evening to prevent evaporations. Focus on plants experiencing drought stress
- **Planting**
 - Now is the time to plant or transplant planters and baskets, as well as fall blooming bulbs
 - Sow Cleome, Cosmos, Sunflower, Zinnia, and Marigold seeds
- **Provide support**
 - Stake/support tall growing plants (Gladiolus, Tomato, etc.)
- **Fertilizing**
 - Feed plants with a balanced fertilizer to support growth. Pay extra attention to plants such as tomatoes, peppers, roses, clematis, and planters/baskets
- **Pest Control**
 - Monitor for pests, such as aphids and spider mites. Use organic solutions or insecticidal soap to control infestations.

Next Steps

- **Mulching**
 - Apply a layer of organic mulch around plants to conserve moisture, suppress weeds and regulate soil temperature
- **Apply Repellents**
 - Keep deer and rodents out of your garden, by using fencing or natural deterrent methods
- **Pruning**
 - Deadhead annuals to encourage continuous blooming.
 - Trim back overgrown plants for better air circulation
 - Prune and deadhead perennials, shrubs, and flowers that have finished blooming.



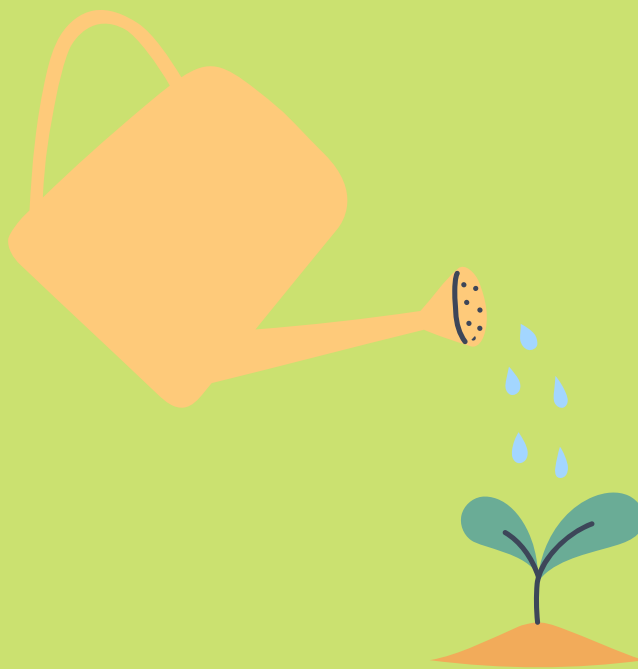
Better Impact



- **Planting**
 - Consider planting herb and vegetable seed varieties for a fall harvest, in garden areas where spring crops are at the end of their season
- **Harvesting**
 - Gather your ripe fruits and vegetables regularly to encourage continuous production.
 - Learn ways to freeze, store, or process your abundant crops for the colder months.
- **Composting**
 - Start a compost pile with kitchen scraps and garden waste to enrich soil for future plantings
- **Garden Decor**
 - Add a touch of creativity and appeal to your garden with elements such as outdoor lighting, attractive pots or other decorative artwork

Extras

- **Making Compost from Yard Waste**
 - https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs_ext_vt_edu/426/426-703/SPES-393.pdf
- **Squash bugs on summer squashes**
 - <https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/ENTO/ento-578/ento-578.html>



**Adjust your tasks to specific
plant needs and
local conditions.
Happy Gardening!**