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## GARDEN TIPS FOR JULY

### PLANTING:

**Perennials, Biennials:** Plant violas, pansies, etc. for next year's bloom. Plant in lightly shaded place and keep the seedlings moist.

**Gladiolas:** Finish planting your corms around the fourth of July.

**Vegetable Seeds:** Put carrot and lettuce seed in the refrigerator for 2-3 days for better sprouting. Plant root crops where you have finished harvesting your peas. Also plant where the plants will be lightly shaded in the heat of the day. Plant cabbage, broccoli, Brussel sprouts, and cauliflower where your beans were. They take about 60 days from planting to harvest.



### FERTILIZING:

**Bulbs:** Keep daffodils, tulips, etc. watered until the leaves yellow.

**Camellias, Rhododendrons:** Continue to water as needed.

**Roses:** Feed well after bloom and water deeply every 7-10 days.

**Hydrangeas:** For pink flowers, fertilize lightly with lime; for blue flowers, use aluminum sulfate in small monthly doses. Water deeply as needed.

**Asparagus:** Water and fertilize. Keep them watered to develop strong roots for next year. Remove any berries.

**Corn:** At first tassel, work in well-rotted manure or fertilizer about 6-8" from the stalks. Watering well makes the ears sweet. Don't cultivate near the roots after the plants are knee high.

### PRUNING:

**Delphiniums and Columbine:** Clip back halfway to get fall blooms.

**Chrysanthemums:** Stop pinching back around July 4<sup>th</sup>. Disbud  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{2}{3}$  for largest early autumn flowers.

**Blueberries:** If there are vigorous shoots that grew several feet this year, cut them back before August. These will develop lateral branches that should bear fruit next year. Remove 6-8" when the shoot is 3-5' high.

**Hedges:** Prune now, especially if you clip only once a year. Make the bottom slightly wider than the top. This allows sun to reach all vertical branches. You can cut old woody stalks close to the ground. Fertilize and water.

## DISEASE AND INSECT CONTROL:

**Cucumber Beetles:** These look like yellow and black spotted lady bugs. They can do serious damage to seedlings. Control if they are over-eating leaves of your plants.

**Filbert Trees:** Spraying starts this month. You will usually need 2 applications about 3 weeks apart. Check with one of our staff or call your extension agent for recommendations. Timing is important to kill the moths before they are out in full force.

**Powdery Mildew:** On grapes, roses, etc. may need to be controlled now. Ask one of our staff for recommendations.



## HINTS:

**Transplanting:** Transplanting should be avoided now if possible. If it is necessary, do it in late afternoon, avoiding the heat of the day. Always soak the area around the plant before moving it and soak the plant again after moving.

**Watering:** Putting perforated plastic soaker hoses under the mulch will conserve water. Make sure you water deeply.

**Strawflowers:** Begin picking and drying for bouquets, before the heads are fully open. Try them at various stages. Dry them in the dark, hanging upside down.

**Beans:** Diseases are spread by picking or weeding damp plants. Wait until the sun has dried them. Pick before the seeds get too big. Watch for the appearance of "cottony" areas in the fleshy tissue inside and around the seed. This means that the seed is beginning to develop rapidly. If you have abundance, try drying some for the winter. The plant will stop producing new beans once you let it go to seed, so be sure you have more plants coming on. Drying can be difficult because of our rains, but you can pull up the entire plant and finish drying under a covered area once the beans have matured and 90% of the leaves have fallen off. Shell the beans when dried. Freeze seeds a day or so, then put them in sealed jars, checking that no moisture droplets form.

**Cucumbers:** Bitterness is caused by cool summers and dryness in the soil. They are prone to virus when weather is cool and damp. Don't let them get too large. When they are yellowish, they are past their peak. Keep them picked and they'll keep producing.

**Cabbage:** After it's been picked, leave the plants in the ground if you have room. Frequently second heads will develop if the weather is cool. Cut the first head high. Don't let the heads stand too long in the field as they tend to split.

**Herbs:** Begin to harvest and dry herbs for winter. Cut them just before the flower buds open. Basil, marjoram, mint, sage, savory, and rosemary should be picked in the morning just after the dew has dried and before they are the least bit wilted by the sun. To dry those with small leaves and stiff stems, hang them upside down in a dark room, preferably with temperature around 70 degrees. Strip leaves of others and lay them separated by species on wire mesh. Stir every day or so until they dry evenly. Ideally they're ready in a week. Store in closed jars in a cool, dark place. Check after a couple of days. If there are water droplets in the jars, remove and dry longer.

