



Garden Tips for June 2016

by Thea Fiskin, UC Master Gardener

While June isn't usually a month for major planting, you can still add heat tolerant plants to your garden. Try to do any planting in the beginning of the month. Summer is going to get hot so be sure to avoid overexposure to the sun; wear a large brimmed hat and long sleeves, use sunscreen and drink plenty of water.

WHAT TO PLANT

Annual color: Plenty of flowers can take the heat of our summer: ageratum, bedding begonias, coleus, cosmos, gerbera daisy, impatiens, marigolds, petunias, salvias, sunflowers, verbena, and zinnias.

Vegetables: Beans, corn, cucumber, gourds, melons and squash can be seeded. Eggplant, peppers and tomatoes should be planted using seedlings. Don't forget that late June is the time to plant pumpkins to harvest for Halloween. Harvest your vegetables regularly to keep them producing. Watch for insects feeding on your veggies.



LAWNS

All lawns should be watered deeply and infrequently to promote deeper root growth and to prevent crabgrass. When mowing the lawn, try not to mow in the same direction every time and vary your path so you don't form ruts.

Warm season lawns like bermuda, St. Augustine and zoysia grass will benefit from fertilizer in June, July and August. You can also plant, patch and reseed these heat lovers all summer long. Fertilize cool season lawns like tall fescue and perennial rye in June, then don't fertilize again until September.

CRITTER CONTROL

Spider mites - signs of these tiny little critters are stippled leaves and ultra-fine webs. Plants along dusty roads are particularly susceptible. Wash off leaves with plain water, use insecticidal soap if necessary.

Stink bugs - Shield shaped bugs with a triangle on their back, most are brown or green with red, pink or yellow markings. They attack fruit and vegetables leaving blemishes or dimples. Insecticides are not recommended, try to handpick them and let parasites and predators control them.

Tomato hornworms and fruit worms - Hornworms can reach the size of a pinky finger! These big green guys can strip a tomato plant of leaves and deposit large black droppings. Tomato fruit worms will take a bite of the fruit. Hand pick or use BT (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) sometimes called Caterpillar killer.

Tobacco budworm - If your geraniums, petunias or roses have stopped blooming the culprit may be the tobacco budworm. The flying moth lays its eggs in the flower buds. The hatching larva feeds on the bud, and then travels down the stem. Try spraying BT or use a rose systemic; do not use rose systemic near any plants you plan to eat.

GARDEN CHORES

- Check your irrigation system for damaged-sprinkler heads or clogged emitters and fix them.

- Deep water ground covers, lawns, shrubs and trees. Deep watering your stone fruit trees now will prevent co-joined fruit (doubles) next year.
- Divide bearded iris. First carefully dig up plants and discard old rhizome and any diseased or rotted sections. Replant the healthy rhizomes, making sure to plant shallowly. Just barely cover with soil, then water.
- After harvest, it's time to clean up those berry vines. Cut this year's fruiting canes back to the ground and then tie up the new green canes to take their place. It's also a good time to spread some compost or fertilizer in the bed, then deep water.
- Prune apricot trees in the summer. Beware of pruning too much, since bark that has been in the shade can sunburn.
- Pinch asters, chrysanthemums and sedum autumn joy, to encourage branching and more blooms in the fall.
- Lightly cut back any perennials that are becoming to leggy.
- Fertilize and snip spent flowers from summer blooming annuals and perennials to keep them blooming.
- Wisteria can be pruned aggressively now, cut back to two nodes on the new branches, this will keep plant in check and have a wonderful display of blooms next year.



WEED CONTROL

Crabgrass - This annual weed thrives in lawns that are watered too often in the summer. Mowing your lawn a little higher and watering less often will discourage seed germination. It is more effective to apply a preemergence herbicide in the winter, than to try to selectively remove crabgrass from the lawn with a postemergence herbicide. IF you use an herbicide, be sure to follow the directions carefully; don't just throw this stuff on by the handfuls.

Nutsedge - Wet waterlogged conditions favor the growth of nutsedge, so improve drainage and keep the area as dry as possible. Nutsedge is one tough weed, so be diligent with hand pulling, hoeing and spraying to get rid of it.

Spurge - This is the flat creeping weed that usually has a red spot on the leaves. When you pull it, sticky sap gets on your hands. Ants love it. Hand pull or hoe spurge plants before they set seeds and remove them from the site. In flowerbeds spot treat with Roundup, apply a preemergence herbicide and add a thick layer of mulch to prevent seed germination. To discourage infestations in lawns, mow fescue at least 3 inches tall to shade seedlings and fertilize bermudagrass to keep it actively growing.

Have a Great Summer.

For answers to all your home gardening questions, call Master Gardeners in Tulare County at (559) 684-3325, Tuesdays and Thursdays between 9:30 and 11:30 am; or Kings County at (559) 852-2736, Thursday only, 9:30-11:30 am; or visit our website: <http://cetulare.ucdavis.edu>.

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