

MONTHLY GARDEN CHORES—JUNE

Summer's officially here! Grab your trowel and sun hat and enjoy tending to your garden.

GENERAL CHORES

- Cut back delphiniums for a second bloom, leaving only a pair of leaves at the bottom of each spike
- Gently lift spring bulbs and remove dried foliage before storing.
- Water citrus slowly and deeply every 2-3 weeks during bloom period to minimize June fruit drop.
- Feed all actively growing plants with a balanced fertilizer.
- Stake and cage tomatoes; set up poles and trellises for beans, cucumbers and peas.
- Mulch around vegetables, trees, shrubs and flowerbeds to conserve water and suppress weeds. Keep mulch away from the trunks and stems of plants.
- Avoid watering native plants, including oaks. These plants are well adapted to our dry summers and are subject to disease if the soil becomes **too moist. However, do water newly planted natives until they're well established.**
- Deadhead spent flowers from rose bushes and annuals to encourage repeat blooming.

PESTS

- Monitor vegetable crops for aphids and bagrada bug. Control aphids by spritzing them with a strong spray of water. Hand sweep bagrada into buckets of soapy water.
- Watch for ants climbing into fruit trees, indicating the presence of pests such as aphids, mealybugs and whiteflies. Prune off any branches that are touching the ground and apply a layer of Tanglefoot around the trunk of the tree. Monitor and reapply as needed to maintain ant control.
- Protect ripening fruit from birds and other pests by draping them with broad mesh netting.
- Monitor apple, pear and Asian pear trees for fire blight damage; prune out infected branches. Dip pruning shears into a 10 percent solution of bleach between pruning cuts.
- Monitor and control for codling moth damage on pears and apples.
- Drain standing water in birdbaths and ponds to control mosquitoes.

PLANTING

- Plant pumpkins and winter squash, along with herbs such as basil, chervil, chives, marjoram, parsley, rosemary, sage and tarragon.
- Sow the last crop of warm weather plants. Consider beans, corn, snap peas and cucumbers.
- Plant summer annuals: alyssum, celosia, dianthus, lobelia, marigold, petunia, phlox, salvia, verbena and zinnia. **Note: bagrada bugs do like alyssum. Plant with caution.**
- Plant aromatic flowers to enhance warm summer evenings. Try heliotrope, Madagascar jasmine, night Jessamine, pink jasmine and tuberose.
- Add summer color with such show-stoppers as bougainvillea, Cape honeysuckle and trumpet vines.

REFERENCES:

[ANTS—IPM PEST NOTES 7411](#)

[APHIDS—IPM PEST NOTES 7404](#)

[CODLING MOTHS—IPM PEST NOTES 7412](#)

[FIRE BLIGHT—IPM PEST NOTES 7414](#)

[MOSQUITOES—IPM PEST NOTES 7451](#)

[BAGRADA-IPM PEST NOTES 74166](#)