Leslie E. Stevens, UC Master Gardener (see 7-2017 Coreopsis pic)

# MONTHLY GARDEN CHORES – JULY

July 4th pyrotechnics aren’t the only fireworks happening this month. Our gardens are an explosion of color and new growth clamoring for our attention.

**Chores**

* Deadhead flowering plants to prolong bloom.
* Pinch back leggy petunias and fuchsia seedpods.
* Pick fruit regularly and dispose of any that has fallen on the ground.
* Replenish thinning garden mulches to maintain moisture and reduce weeds. To avoid crown rot, make sure mulch does not touch plant stems and tree trunks.
* Feed warm-season lawns and sub-tropicals.
* Practice fire prevention by removing dead tree limbs, woody shrubs and debris near structures. Cut weeds and tall grasses down to stubble.

**Pests**

* Control gophers by trapping.
* Control vole (meadow mice) and mole damage by keeping a weed-free strip/buffer around your garden. Watch for telltale above-ground runways.

**Flowers**

You can still plant heat-loving summer color. Try annual marigolds and zinnias, as well as perennial coreopsis, gaura, verbena and salvias.

**Fruits & Vegetables**

* There’s still time to plant cherry tomatoes and summer squash in the North County.
* In the South County and coastal valleys, try corn.

**Trees & Shrubs**

* Keep citrus and avocado trees well watered throughout the summer.
* If planning to add new trees or shrubs to your landscape, now is a good time to view mature examples in your neighborhoods with an eye toward fall planting.