# JUNE GARDEN CHORES

#### By Linda Lewis Griffith

Summer is here. Our gardens are in full swing. Now’s the time to grab your trowel and sunscreen and head out to the yard.

**General tasks:**

* **Compost.** Turn compost and keep it as moist as a wrung-out sponge. Add garden waste, grass clippings and disease-free pruning materials and leaves.

[**http://ucanr.edu/sites/Nutrient\_Management\_Solutions/stateofscience/Compost/**](http://ucanr.edu/sites/Nutrient_Management_Solutions/stateofscience/Compost/)

* **Irrigation.** Adjust watering schedules according to the weather and changing needs of your plants. Check irrigation system for leaks and broken emitters. Pay close attention to the moisture needs of new plants in your garden. Established perennials, shrubs and trees need infrequent but deep watering.

[**http://homeorchard.ucanr.edu/The\_Big\_Picture/Irrigation/**](http://homeorchard.ucanr.edu/The_Big_Picture/Irrigation/)

* **Water.** To reduce evaporation, water when temperatures are cooler and the air is still, usually in the early morning. Water deeply to moisten the root zone, but no deeper. Container plants may need daily watering, as soil in pots dries out quickly and can damage plant roots on a hot day.
* **Mulch.** Apply 2-3” of mulch where existing mulch is thin or soil is bare to protect against heat and water stress during the summer. Keep mulch back 12” from tree trunks and 6” from perennials to discourage pathogens.
* **Weeds.** Manage weeds using nonchemical methods such as hand weeding, cultivation or mowing. Use toxic chemicals as a last resort.

<https://www.unce.unr.edu/programs/sites/ipm/weed/>

**Landscape:**

* **Feed plants.**
  + Feed roses and other blooming plants to keep them blooming.
  + Acid-loving plants (camellias and azaleas) require an acid fertilizer; follow application rates for your product.
  + Fertilize cymbidiums bi-weekly.
* **Lawn.** Raise the cutting height of your lawnmower to 1-1.5 inches to help grass survive drought and heat. Leave clippings on the ground to provide both nutrients and a layer of mulch.
* **Plant.** Sow seeds of fall-blooming annuals directly in the ground; keep beds moist until seedlings emerge.
* **Propagate.** Dig up and divide overcrowded spring-blooming perennial bulbs (daffodils, daylilies, iris and tulips). Trim dead portions. Store in a cool, dry place for replanting in the fall.
* **Train.** Stake tall plants, such as gladiolas, lilies and vines.

**Edibles**

* **Fertilize plants.** 
  + Citrus benefit from an application of high-nitrogen fertilizer with added iron.
  + Heavy-feeding tomatoes like a low-nitrogen supplement when fruit starts to develop
* **Harvest.**  Harvest and store mature warm season vegetables. Not sure when veggies are ripe? Check out this link for more information:

<http://cagardenweb.ucanr.edu/Vegetables/>

**Plant.** Soil temperature is no longer an issue, but air temperature is. Consult with this link to determine the best planting times in your region: <http://cagardenweb.ucanr.edu/Vegetables/>

Pests

* **Scale.** Scales are sucking insects that can seriously damage their host plants. Populations of some scales increase dramatically when the weather warms. Most scale can be controlled by beneficial predators and parasites. Control for scale-tending ants by applying a ring of Tanglefoot around the trunk of affected trees.

<http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/r540300711.html>

<http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7411.html>

* **Mosquitoes.** Mosquitoes are more than pesky. Several species readily attack people and can transmit diseases such as encephalitis and malaria. Manage populations by removing standing water and dense patches of decaying vegetation, applying mosquito-specific control agents and stocking fish that feed on larvae.

<http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7451.html>

* **Yellowjackets.** Yellowjackets are social wasps that can be aggressive when defending their nests or foraging for food. Sometimes referred to as “meat bees,” these pests can ruin a picnic with one sting. Control yellowjackets by keeping food covered or inside the house until ready to eat. Lure traps can reduce the numbers of local foragers but don’t eliminate large populations.

<http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7450.html>