# 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 form 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](http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7411.html)

[APHIDS—IPM PEST NOTES 7404](http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7404.html)

[CODLING MOTHS—IPM PEST NOTES 7412](http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7412.html)

[FIRE BLIGHT—IPM PEST NOTES 7414](http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7414.html)

[MOSQUITOES—IPM PEST NOTES 7451](http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7451.html)

[BAGRADA-IPM PEST NOTES 74166](http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn74166.html)