

July Gardening To Do List

Plant Care:

- Purchase new tomato transplants or take root cuttings from plants already in the garden to start new plants.
- Remove dead plants from garden and prepare soil for fall.
- Things to plant in a July vegetable garden are lima beans, peppers, cantaloupes, watermelons, cucumbers, southern peas, pumpkins, summer squash, and eggplant.
- Plant fall blooming perennials such as chrysanthemums, fall aster, stokes aster, salvia leucantha, and Mexican mint marigold.
- Mulch all bare soil in beds and garden.
- Turn compost pile, add new ingredients, and keep damp. Start a new compost pile to accommodate fall leaves.
- Sow seeds of snapdragons, dianthus, pansies, calendulas, and other cool season flowers in flats, or in well-prepared areas of the garden, for planting outside during mid-to-late fall.
- Divide spring flowering perennials, such as iris, Shasta daisy, oxeye daisy, gaillardia, cannas, day lilies, violets, lirioppe, and ajuga.



Salvia leucantha

Prune:

- Trim lanky or overgrown annuals to stimulate new growth.
- STOP! Do not prune any spring flowering shrubs. If you do, you may cut off flower buds for next spring.

Fertilize:

- “Tiff” Bermuda – July 1 and common Bermuda – July 15.
- To develop a strong, healthy turf, apply 1-inch of water once or twice a week.
- Side-dress tomatoes, peppers, okra, beans, and squash with nitrogen-only fertilizer, such as 21-0-0.
- Set mower to taller height to encourage deep rooting, drought tolerance and better cover in shady areas. Allow short clippings to fall and decompose on the lawn.
- Plants growing in containers that are frequently watered can quickly exhaust the nutrients in the potting soil. Fertilize container plants with liquid plant food every two weeks.



Pests and Diseases:

- Symptoms of oak wilt begin to show, with red oaks dying quickly and live oaks beginning to drop leaves. If you see evidence of this in your neighborhood, treat your oaks with Alamo on a preventative basis.
- Fire ants – try the Texas Two-Step Method. (refer to PESTS section of ROCKMGA.)
- Tiny pests called spider mites multiply in hot, dry weather and suck the juices from the foliage of many plants. Spider mites look like tiny red, yellow, tan, or brown specks and congregate under leaves. Signs of their presence are speckled, bronzed, or browning foliage and tiny webs between the leaves and stems. To control spider mites, blast the underside of leaves with water from a hose – they hate being wet – or spray plants according to label directions with horticultural oil or insecticidal soap.



Evidence of spider mites