

What To Do In The Garden in June

by Pat Dumas



June is *the* month! The month where everything has popped, is popping and will bust out before the cool of impending Autumn.

It's a good time to sit back and watch the fruits of your labors, while tweaking a little here, planting a bit more there, and keeping up the garden so it looks beautiful way into fall.

- Work in the hours between the high heat and humidity-- early morning, and late afternoon. Watering in the morning is the best way to avoid quick plant evaporation in the hot midday sun. Try to avoid watering in the evening.
- Water newly planted shrubs and plants deeply. Check your mulch as well. You want to keep water evaporation low in the heat, so a good mulch like *Right Dress* will help keep your plants and shrubs hydrated while preserving moisture.
- Bring those over-wintered indoor tropical plants outside for a good dose of fresh air and humidity. Keep outdoors until the weather gets cool in the fall.
- Bring the birds to your yard! You can still feed the birds in the summer. Seed and suet will bring moms and babies into view and help them establish a territory. Offering a bird bath or running water with a fountain attracts birds looking for fresh, cool water. A Hummingbird Feeder is a must for keeping those fabulous little birds around.
- Keep dead-heading your petunias, hibiscus, lantana and other annuals. The more you pick, the bushier, and healthier your plants will be. This goes for perennials as well. Fertilize every 2 weeks in hanging baskets and pots.

- Tend to the vegetable garden. Keep fertilizing every two weeks with *Miracle Gro*, *Plantone* or *Dr. Earth Vegetable Fertilizer*. Growing Organic is easy to do when you use organic fertilizers and potting soil. Remember to keep vegetables like tomato, squash, and pepper plants evenly moist. This prevents cracking, splitting and other fruit problems.
- Pinch out the “suckers” on your tomato plants-- (the growth coming out of the joint of the plant; where a branch meets a stem.) Don’t be afraid to keep your tomatoes in line with a little cutting back now and again. This will produce bigger and healthier fruit.
- The heat of the summer can bring disease and pests to your Roses. Be prepared with a good, basic insect and disease spray like Bayers 3 in 1. This is a long-lasting systemic product, and will take care of problems for 1 month.

For questions on gardening, see our plant experts at Sickles Market or give us a call with questions 732.741.9563