



Through the
Garden
Gate

July Gardening Tips and Reminders

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In your garden bed

Summer is here and it's a great time to add a water feature to your landscape. Water features provide for a creative outlet, but also allow you to enjoy the soothing sights and sounds of water.

A variety of plants and trees can provide color in your garden in the month of July. Select crape myrtles, summersweet, spireas, hydrangeas, butterfly bushes hypericum, and goldenraintree.

Perennials are on everyone's short list and come in every color imaginable. Use daylilies, veronica, rudbeckia, phlox, and tickseed. A quick visit to your local nursery will provide you with many options for color.

Check all of your plants, inside and out, especially newly planted ones for water regularly. Water thoroughly and as needed.

Spruce up your summer landscape with beautiful colors in containers and hanging baskets. Window boxes, hanging baskets and assorted planters also add interest and intrigue.

Stop pinching chrysanthemums by July 16th.

Don't prune azaleas and rhododendrons after the middle of the month, because buds will soon begin setting for next year's blooms.

Water Gardens

Clear pond water can be achieved with proper plant balance. If the pond is in full sun then 60-75% of its surface must be covered with foliage. Use floating heart, water hyacinths, water poppies and lilies.

Fertilize all your water lilies and lotus at least once a month to keep them blooming continuously throughout the summer season.

Lotus is a wonderful plant for container water gardens when used on the deck or patio. Whiskey barrels or large ceramic planters make a perfect container for these types of water gardens. Just make certain to seal properly.

July is also the month to switch from spring fish food to summer fish food. This can be done earlier if water temperatures have risen above 70 degrees. Fish metabolize at a faster rate in higher temps, thus they require a diet higher in protein, which summer food contains.

Fruit and Vegetable Gardens

Fertilize fruits and vegetables as needed with a good quality, slow-release vegetable food.

Stake tomato plants or use a tomato cage.

If necessary, spray tomato plants and other vegetables to control diseases.

Start seeds for fall vegetables this month. Broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts and many other vegetables can be started this month.

Houseplants

Feed houseplants with a good quality indoor plant food.

If needed, re-pot root bound houseplants to larger pots.

July Reminders:

Get ready for your 4th of July party by sprucing up your summer landscape with beautiful blooming plants in red, white and blue.

Add fresh mulch to your landscape for that extra clean look.

Don't forget, July brings out mosquitoes, gnats and black flies.

Take the necessary precautions to safeguard not only yourself, but your guests too!

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