

News Article

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June Lawn and Garden Calendar

The following lawn, landscape and garden suggestions for the month of June are from “Summer Garden Calendar,” Purdue Extension publication HO-92, authored by B. Rosie Lerner. Timing horticultural events and practices can vary from year to year, depending on weather conditions. The following information is intended as a general guide. Adjust activities according to local weather and site conditions, and be sure to read and follow label directions thoroughly on all products.

Indoor Plants and Activities

- Indoor plants require more frequent watering and fertilizing as they increase their summer growth.
- Houseplants can be moved outdoors to a shady location, but pay close attention to their watering needs.
- Cut garden flowers for indoor beauty. Recut the stems again just before placing in water. Add a floral preservative and change the solution frequently.
- Root cuttings of houseplants and garden plants to increase your collection or share with a friend. Take cuttings from vigorously growing plants. Place cut end in rooting media, such as perlite, vermiculite, or peat moss soil mix. Enclose in perforated plastic, and keep out of direct sunlight.

Woody Landscape Plants and Fruit Trees

- Prune spring-flowering shrubs after blooms fade.
- Apply fungicide to prevent and control black spot on roses.
- Water newly planted trees and shrubs. Water deeply every 7 to 10 days when rain is lacking.
- Propagate deciduous shrubs, such as forsythia, lilac, pyracantha, and weigelia by stem-tip cuttings.
- Remove faded flowers and seed pods on lilac and other spring-flowering shrubs.
- Many Indiana trees are plagued by “lawn-mower blight.” Be careful to avoid nicking tree trunks while mowing.
- Do not become alarmed at June drop of tree fruit. It is a natural thinning process for most trees to prevent excessive loads. Thin remaining excess fruit, if any exists, or prop up heavy branches to avoid breaking. Most fruit should be spaced 6 to 8 inches apart on a branch.
- Continue applications of home orchard fruit sprays to maintain problem-free fruit.

Lawn

- Keep grass mowed regularly, maintaining height at about one-half an inch higher than usual to help protect the crown of the plant from heat stress.
- Don't remove clippings from the lawn unless the grass is excessively tall or weedy. Clippings return some nutrients to the soil and do not add to thatch buildup.
- Water the lawn as needed to supply a total of 1 to 1-1/2 inches of water per week. Water deeply in a single application. Frequent, light sprinklings encourage roots to stay shallow, making them more susceptible to drought.

Flowers, Vegetables, and Small Fruits

- Discontinue harvest of asparagus and rhubarb around mid-June to allow foliage to develop and store food reserves for next year's harvest. Fertilize and water when dry to promote healthy growth.
- Mulch to control weeds and conserve soil moisture after soil has warmed. Many materials such as straw, chopped corn cobs, bark chips, shredded paper, and grass clippings can be used.
- Blanch (exclude light from) cauliflower when heads are just 2 inches in diameter. Tie leaves up and over the developing head.
- Keep weeds controlled. They're easier to pull when they are still young.
- Plan now for your Halloween pumpkin. Determine the days to harvest for the particular cultivar you want to plant (usually on the seed packet), and count backwards from mid-October to determine the proper planting date.
- Harvest spring plantings of broccoli, cabbage, and peas.
- Remove cool-season plants, such as radish, spinach and lettuce as they bolt, or form seed stalks, during hot, summer weather.
- Continue planting carrots, beans, and sweet corn for successive harvests.
- For staked tomatoes, remove suckers (a branch that forms where the leaf joins the stem) while they are 1 to 1-1/2 inches long to allow for easier training.
- Remove spent blooms of peony, iris, delphiniums, and other flowers.
- Pinch shoot tips of chrysanthemums, impatiens, petunias, and coleus to promote bushier growth.
- Remove tops of spring-flowering bulbs only after they have yellowed and withered.
- Continue planting gladiolus for a succession of bloom.
- Pick strawberries from the garden or a pick-your own operation.
- Protect ripening strawberries from birds by using netting.
- Supplement natural rainfall to supply a total of 1 to 1-1/2 inches of water per week to the garden. Water deeply once per week rather than frequent light sprinkling.