

YEAR ROUND GARDENING

June Garden Calendar

by Eileen Tully, Colorado Master Gardener

Early to Mid-June – This is the recommended time for direct-seed planting.

- Plant corn, lima beans, cantaloupe, pumpkin, watermelon and zucchini now.
- Nasturtium, marigold, zinnia, sunflowers, hyacinth bean vine, morning glory and cardinal flower vine seeds can be sown directly in the soil.
- Herbs like basil, chives, cilantro and parsley, to name a few, can also be grown from seed. Most herbs need no fertilizer and little water. Cut herbs early in the morning and harvest just before flowering.
- Transplants of tomatoes, cucumber, summer squash, and pepper can be planted early June. Plant tomatoes deep. Remove the lower leaves and bury 2/3 of the plant underground so the plant has a better root system. New roots will grow along the buried stem and you'll have a stronger, healthier plant.
- Check all containers daily, watering when necessary; they can dry out quickly. Protect hanging containers from high winds.
- Mulch 2 – 3" to retain moisture and reduce weeds. A fresh layer of mulch is an almost instant boost for your garden's appearance.
- Seems like weeds are more abundant this year and vigilantly pulling them will keep your garden healthy
- Plant tender bulbs – dahlias, cannas, caladiums and gladiolus.
- Lawn -mow as often as necessary to maintain grass at a height of 2 to 3 inches. Leave grass clippings on the lawn. Fertilizing second or third week of June will help prepare your lawn during the hot days of July.
- Perennials can be planted throughout June.



Photo courtesy of Eileen Tully

- Gardens need an inch of water a week. If it doesn't rain soak deeply in the root zone.

Mid to Late-June

- Regular garden maintenance begins as June progresses. Deadhead perennials to encourage more blooms. Stake leggy plants like delphinium, liatris, penstemon and foxglove.
- Many fruit trees, especially apple trees, will shed small fruit around this time. It's a natural thinning process called June drop. You can do additional hand thinning, spacing fruit 8 to 10 inches apart on branches, if you want to increase the quality of your harvest.
- Harvest Asparagus spears until they thin out. Leave some of the spears to grow into tall, fernlike plants that rejuvenate the roots for next year's plants.
- Control the spread of raspberry plants by cutting back sucker growth.
- As Lupine blooms fade, check the plant for aphids. An infestation of these tiny white creatures can occur overnight and kill the plant. Spraying plants thoroughly with an insecticidal soap should get rid of them.
- Prune spring flowering shrubs such as lilac, weigela and forsythia after they finish blooming.
- Pinch back aster and mums for bushier plants and more flowers this fall.
- Lawn diseases become noticeable as June progresses. Three of the most common diseases in Kentucky bluegrass are ascochyta leaf blight, necrotic ring spot and dollar spot. If you have areas of lawn in stress, or dying, bring a shoebox-size sample of half-dead, half-alive lawn to the Master Garden Help Desk located at 17 North Spruce Street, second floor, during our business hours and one of the volunteers will analyze the problem.

When you have questions, Colorado State University Extension has research based answers. Get answers to your horticulture questions by calling a Master Gardener Volunteer at 520-7684 or emailing CSUmq2@elpasoco.com . Volunteers are available to help you Monday to Thursday from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

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