

## Year Round Gardening

### **Garden Maintenance as We Head Into Summer**

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*A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken. ~James Dent*

June to July is the transition from late spring to early summer. It pays to do a bit of maintenance and upkeep during this transition period.

#### **Spring bloomers in the perennial garden:**

As blooms fade start deadheading the spent blooms, some plants, such as nepetas and salvias, will bloom again if deadheaded, others like penstemon may not bloom again but the foliage will be more attractive if trimmed up.

This is a good time to divide iris, pay attention to larger clumps that did not bloom prolifically this year, they may benefit from division.

You can divide spring blooming perennials but wait for a cooler period to do that, there is no need to stress the plants by transplanting in extreme heat.

#### **Fall bloomers in the perennial garden:**

Fall blooming perennials like chrysanthemums, west Texas sage and goldenrod, sometimes set blooms early. It is a good idea to remove buds formed prior to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

While it will not harm the plants to bloom early, these late bloomers provide your fall color. Delaying that bloom will yield a more colorful September garden.



#### **Lawn care:**

If you did not fertilize this spring, apply fertilizer in late June. Continue to mow no more than 1/3 of the grass height, especially during extreme heat. More information on lawn care can be found at: <http://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/yard-garden/lawn-care-7-202/>.

**Shrub and tree care:**

Prune spring bloomers such as forsythia and lilac as soon as possible.

Do not fertilize evergreens after July 4<sup>th</sup>. If you have not fertilized already late June is your last opportunity before next spring.

Dead head roses to increase the bloom period. Roses should be fertilized in early spring, and again in early July. Use a balanced fertilizer. More information on rose care can be found at <https://m.extension.illinois.edu/roses/water.cfm>.

Prune arborvitae, junipers, Oregon grape holly and boxwood once new growth has emerged and expanded the shape of the plant. Make sure you do this early summer, waiting until late summer to fall can result in winterkill on tender new growth.

**Planting early summer:**

Early July isn't too late to plant zinnias from seed. You will be amazed at how fast they will appear in the warm soil. They will bloom a bit later in the summer when other flowers may be waning.

Enjoy your garden, sometimes we get so busy maintaining, we forget to stop and smell the roses.

When you have questions, CSU Extension has research-based answers. Get answers to your horticulture questions at [ask.extension.org](http://ask.extension.org) or visit the office at 17 N. Spruce Street. Help Desk hours are Monday to Thursday from 9 am – 12 pm, phone 520-7684 or email [CSUmq2@elpasoco.com](mailto:CSUmq2@elpasoco.com). For upcoming events visit <http://elpaso.extension.colostate.edu/>