

Timely Turf Tips

June 2019

Still plenty of time to plant the garden. Check out this University of Minnesota Extension webpage for planting and growing guides, <https://extension.umn.edu/how/planting-and-growing-guides#harvesting-and-storing-1147812>. There's information on starting a garden, composting, fertilizing, weeding, watering, harvesting, and storing vegetables. Click on the link to the Upper Midwest home gardening calendar to read "What to do", "Best time to do it", and "Okay time to do it" for many gardening tasks. Back on the planting and growing guide page, another section covers the care and maintenance of lawns and landscape plants. Click on the Minnesota lawn care calendar link for helpful information on caring for the lawn.

June garden tips:

If you are growing strawberries, stop in for netting to protect them from the hungry birds. Fertilize June-bearing strawberries after harvest with a balanced fertilizer like 10-10-10

The recent rains have made it easier to pull young weeds. Stay ahead of the problem by removing them before they become more established. Consider using organic mulch (2-4") later in the month after soil temps have increased to keep weeds out and help retain moisture.

All tomato and pepper plants can be planted now. If tomato plants are leggy, just plant them deeper to encourage rooting along the stem. Remember to stake or cage tomatoes after planting before they become too large. Save by using the coupon below.

Thin those early seeded crops like radishes, leaf lettuce and spinach to allow the young plants room to grow.

Rhubarb can be picked up to the end of the month. Remember to remove any flower stalks.

Consider fertilizing roses later this month, after the first wave of blossoms, with a complete low nitrogen fertilizer (1 T per plant.)

If some of your perennials are getting too big for their space, consider dividing them before the 3rd week of June.

For a good fall bloom, prune back garden chrysanthemums one final time near the end of the month.

June lawn tips:

Remember to fertilize your lawn with an application of 25-0-15 fertilizer, with 50% slow-release nitrogen, before mid-June if you have not applied any fertilizer this spring.

Spray Weed Free Zone or Speedzone on creeping Charlie, clover, dandelions, and thistle now before temperatures increase. Both products become rain-fast in 4 hours and allow reseeding within 2 weeks of application.

Did you provide a nectar feeder for hummingbirds or orioles? Remember to change the nectar more often as the temperature increases. If temp is over 80°, clean and refill every 3-4 days. Cloudiness means spoilage; flush the feeder with hot water from the faucet. Stay away from soap if possible. Consider using a bottle brush. Disinfect monthly with a solution of ¼ cup bleach to 1 gal of water. Soak feeder in bleach solution 1 hour, clean with brush, and rinse with tap water and fill with new sugar solution.

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