

Timely Turf Tips

July 2019

Now is the time to take pleasure in your lawn and/or garden. Most lawns and gardens are looking splendid, so remember to share it with a friend over coffee, bring the beauty indoors with some cut flower arrangements, or capture the beauty with pictures. If you wish to tour other gardens for new ideas or inspiration, check out the Northern Gardener website (www.northerngardener.org) published by the Minnesota Horticultural Society. Choose the heading Classes & Events, select Community Calendar, and choose View the Community Calendar to see a list of events.

July lawn and garden tips:

- Keep the grass 3 to 3 ½ inches tall with regular mowing. Taller grass is more drought-tolerant by providing more shade to the grass crowns and roots.
- As temperatures begin to increase, consider mulching gardens and flower beds to lessen moisture loss and help prevent annual weeds.
- Side-dress tomatoes and peppers with a complete fertilizer, such as 12-6-6 Growers Special (available at the mill) when they start to flower and produce fruit.
- Continue to deadhead any old blossoms on all annuals to continue blooming. Fertilize flowering annuals during the first bloom and again before the season ends for the best results.
- Oblong-shaped holes in plant leaves could be slug damage. Stop by to pick up a product to control these pests.
- Plants grown in containers and hanging baskets need extra care in the hot weather of July. Check moisture levels daily, watering as needed, and consider using a water soluble fertilizer at half strength weekly to provide additional nutrients.
- Watch tomato plants for leaf spot diseases like early blight and Septoria. Lessen the occurrence of these diseases by watering early in the day and keeping the moisture off of the leaves as much as possible. Try to limit working among wet plants since this can increase the spread of the disease to other plants. Keep the soil from coming in contact with the foliage and developing tomatoes by staking and mulching. If you remove infected leaves, consider placing them in the trash or use some other method of destroying them. They should not go into the compost. Fungicides are available to help control the spread of the disease. Please follow all label directions for the product.
- Garlic growers- remember that mid-July to early August is the time for harvesting. Get information on harvesting from the U of M Extension at <https://extension.umn.edu/vegetables/growing-garlic>.



July can bring Japanese beetles, Rose Chafers and other pests to the garden. Remember to monitor the garden for these invaders. Small infestations can be slowed by hand-picking the pests and disposing of them by knocking them into a container of soapy water. Pick Japanese Beetles at night (after 7:00 PM) for the best results. Come see us at the mill if you have larger populations for additional suggestions for control. Another pest, the squash vine borer, are present now so check out this link, <https://extension.umn.edu/yard-and-garden-insects/find/squash-vine-borers>, for more information if you are growing summer and winter squash or pumpkins. We can provide an insecticide treatment to help stop the larvae from entering the stem and prevent the possible loss of the entire plant.

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