



13 Quick Tips for your Home & Garden: Summer

Contributed by Chesterfield Master Gardeners

Late June Tips

- Dead head old flowers from your plants to encourage new growth. Do not remove the foliage of spring bulbs until it has yellowed and dried.
- It is Japanese beetle season again. Hand picking is a good way to handle small numbers. Simply dump them in a bucket of water.
- Ensure that your lawn & garden receives 1 inch of water per week. Set out an empty tuna can measure the amount of rainfall & water early in the morning.
- During hot, summer weather, be sure to mow your lawn to the appropriate height. This reduces water loss and helps lower soil temperatures. Leave clippings on the lawn to decompose.
- Check your plants for any diseases or insects; bring bugs & diseased plants to our Master Gardener Help Desk for FREE diagnosis.

July Tips

- Powdery mildew diseases attacks roses, apples and cherries on warm days and cool nights. Prevention by cultural techniques is the first defense. Grow resistant varieties; space and prune plants to improve air flow and to lessen shading; water early in the day and at the base rather than on leaves; and reduce nitrogen applications to avoid excessive, late-season growth.
- Water your lawn and garden in the early morning to prevent evaporation. Mulch plants to reduce water loss and improve yields. To further avoid excess evaporation, use a sprinkler that produces large drops of water instead of a fine mist.
- Have slugs? Put out squares of cardboard in your garden each night. In the morning, pick them up, and if there are any slugs clinging to the underside, discard the whole square in a trash bag.

August Tips

- If you wish to kill grass and weeds growing through cracks in patios, garden walks, or driveways, be extremely cautious. Many weed killers will leach into surrounding areas and damage your ornamentals or lawn. Pulling the weeds is the safest action, but you may wish to use a contact herbicide, such as those containing glyphosate. Read the label carefully and do not use on windy days since it is more likely to damage other plants.
- Start selecting your favorite bulb varieties and order them now. A good guideline to use is 'biggest is best' in regard to bulb size. Be careful about so-called "bargain" bulbs as they may be small or of inferior quality.
- Water shrubs deeply once a week during August. Many plants, including camellias and rhododendrons, are starting buds for next season's bloom at this time.

Beginning of September Tips

- Many plants in the flower border will make excellent house plants this winter. Among the easy-to-maintain indoors are begonia, coleus, geranium, and ivy. If they are already being grown in containers, it is a simple matter to bring them indoors. Start moving them in at night when the temperature drops below 60 degrees F to maintain their vigor and flower production.
- Now is the time to fertilize and reseed your cool season grasses. Warm days and cool nights provide ideal conditions for seed germination and establishment of tall fescue, Kentucky bluegrass, fine-leaf fescues, and perennial ryegrass.