

GARDENING TIPS FOR JULY

Revised 12/19

Annuals & Perennials

- Plant zinnia seeds. They will sprout in 6 days and bloom within a few weeks.
- Plant more coleus and caladiums. They grow well through September.
- Sow seeds of hollyhocks, English daisies, foxglove, Canterbury bells and Sweet Williams for next year's blooms.
- Divide and transplant iris.
- Take root cuttings of coleus, fuchsia and geraniums.
- Stake tall growing plants.
- Remove faded blooms and damaged or yellowing leaves on annuals and perennials.
- Pinch out tips and buds of chrysanthemums to get blooms in fall instead of now.
- Mulch to retain moisture, control soil temperature and diseases.
- Control weeds.
- Watch for spider mites.
- Watch for Japanese beetles. Beetle traps are not recommended. Apply Sevin in evening hours. Sevin is injurious to pollinators. See <http://www.walterreeves.com/insects-and-animals/japanese-beetles-control-options/>
- Assess landscape for sun and shade. Select appropriate plants for remaining months and future years. <http://www.walterreeves.com/gardening-q-and-a/sunlight-full-sun-vs-partial-shade/>
- Container plantings: Check soil moisture. Dark pots in sunshine get hot enough to kill roots, repot or place in shade.
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Fruits

- Fertilize plums, muscadines, bunch grapes, blackberries, raspberries, and strawberries.
- Harvest fruit as it ripens.
- Prune long sprouts in center of blueberry bushes after harvest.
- Spray for insects and diseases, as required. [Read the label for waiting time between spraying and harvest.](#)

Trees and Shrubs

- Fertilize young trees and shrubs. Water in fertilizer.
- Azaleas, camellias and rhododendrons are forming flower buds now. Water as required.
- Water spring planted trees and shrubs. Need 1 inch of water per week. Mature trees need deep watering. Trees may lose up to 10% of their leaves during drought. Additional information at <http://www.walterreeves.com/landscaping/drought-watering-trees/>
- Avoid planting balled and burlap or container grown trees, shrubs and roses in summer. Planting from October thru February is preferred.
- Remove dry flowers from butterfly bush to encourage more blooms.
- Remove blooms from shrub roses as they fade. .
- Prune azaleas and rhododendrons immediately after flowering.
- Prune hydrangeas (Bigleaf, Garden, French, Common) when most of the blooms have faded.
- Prune boxwoods by thinning.
- Lightly and selectively prune wisteria to shape and enhance next year's blooms.
- Remove suckers from base of cherry, crape myrtle, dogwood and crabapple trees. Pruning instructions: <http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/ho-4.pdf>
<http://www.bing.com/search?q=pruning+trees+and+shrubs+-+UGA&src=IE-TopResult&FORM=IE11TR>
- Prune or cut down trees or shrubs attacked by ambrosia beetles.
- Spraying will not cure existing powdery mildew but will protect new growth from infection. Sprays are ineffective in high temperatures. If infection is severe, prune out. See <http://www.walterreeves.com/landscaping/powdery-mildew-control/>
- Watch for fire blight. See <http://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.cfm?number=C871>
- Check for various pests and diseases and spray if required:
 - Azaleas: flatid planthopper, stem borer, lace bugs, cankers, dieback.
 - Boxwood: spider mites.
 - Birch: Anthracnose.

- Camellia: Canker, stem dieback, petal blight.
- Crabapple: Cedar-apple rust.
- Crape myrtle: Powdery mildew, aphids, ambrosia beetles, Japanese beetles.
- Dogwood: Spot anthracnose, borers, cottony maple scale.
- Gardenia: Whitefly, leaf spot.
- Hydrangea: Leaf spot.
- Holly: caterpillars, spittle bugs.
- Junipers: bagworms, spider mites, tip blight, needle blight.
- Leyland cypress: Bot canker, Seridium canker, needle blight.
- Oaks: Slime flux, canker, rust.
- Roses: Black spot. Spray every two weeks.
Roses: Powdery mildew, downy mildew, stem canker, thrips.
Knockout rose disease - read
<http://thedailysouth.southernliving.com/2013/04/21/is-knockout-rose-down-for-the-count/>
- Rhododendron: flatid planthopper, stem borer, black vine weevil, cankers, dieback.
- See annual Rose Maintenance Guide [Rose Maintenance schedule](#)
- Storm damaged tree information:
- <http://www.gatrees.org/community-forests/management/trees-storm-safety/>
- Perform a tree survey. Form available at
http://www.gfc.state.ga.us/community-forests/management/trees-storm-safety/HomeownersRole_000.pdf

The Georgia Forestry Commission's on line service —“Ask the Arborist”. Complete a form and a certified arborist will answer questions and evaluate conditions.

<http://www.gfc.state.ga.us/community-forests/ask-the-arborist/index.cfm>

Turf

- Plant Bermuda.
- Lay Bermuda, Centipede and Zoysia sod in bare spots if irrigation is available. Prepare soil 6” deep in these spots.
- Fertilize Bermuda and Zoysia only if turf can receive weekly irrigation during dry periods.
- Do not fertilize Fescue.
- Mow grass at proper height. Keep the mower blade sharpened. For fescue, raise mower blade ½ inch during dry weather to encourage deeper rooting and reduced water demand.
- Check for cutworms, white grubs, spittlebugs in centipede.
- Check for brown patch, fairy ring, dollar spot, gray leaf spot, pythium root rot, and slime mold.
- Apply post-emergent herbicides as required.
- For detailed information on turf care, pests and diseases go to: www.georgiaturf.com
- Cicada killers, large non-aggressive wasps, do no damage to turf. No need to spray.
- If you collect your grass clippings, add them to the compost pile.

Vegetables

- Plant pumpkins so they will be ready for Halloween.
- Plant bush beans, pole beans, lima beans, cauliflower, corn, cucumbers, okra, peppers and tomatoes.
- Harvest vegetables regularly to prolong production.
- Harvest onions and Irish potatoes when 2/3 of tops have died down.
- Harvest herbs for drying.
- Mulch 2 – 3 inches to retain moisture, control soil temperature and diseases.
- Clean harvested rows immediately to prevent insect and disease buildup.
- Clean rows of early crops and use rows for replanting or keep fallow for fall crops.
- Remove suckers from tomato plants for larger tomatoes. Plant suckers for additional crop.
- Tomatoes: Watch for blossom end rot, cracking, tomato hornworms and leaf damage.
- Helpful tomato publications:

Common Tomato Diseases in Georgia

<http://www.walterreeves.com/food-gardening/tomato-disease-guide/>

Tomato Insect Pests

http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/pests/plant_pests/veg_fruit/hgic2217.html

Tomato Problems

<http://vegetablemdonline.ppath.cornell.edu/DiagnosticKeys/TomLeaf/TomLeafKey.html>

- Water vegetables, if required. Don't let tomatoes dry out.
- Bush beans, peppers and tomatoes may drop blossoms during summer heat. They will blossom again when temperature cools.
- Check for various beetles and bugs. Spray as required. [Read the label for waiting time between spraying and harvest.](#)
- Plan your fall garden. Planting will begin in August and September.
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Water On March 8, 2018, The Director of Georgia Environmental Protection Division lifted the Drought Level 1 declaration. Outdoor irrigation is permitted 7 days a week before 10AM and after 4PM.

For more information or further clarification please review the [frequently asked questions](#).

We encourage customers to conserve our water resources. Information on indoor and outdoor water conservation can be found on the [Water Efficiency Program pages](#). Cobb County Water System has free conservation kits and comprehensive education resources on how to use water efficiently indoors and outdoors.

- Landscape water conservation – read “Best Management Practices for Landscape Water Conservation”.
<http://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.cfm?number=C873>
- Water slowly and deeply. Deep watering encourages root growth.
- Use drip irrigation or soaker hoses. They use 50% less water than sprinklers.
- Check your irrigation system. (1) Is the timer set correctly? (2) Are all the nozzles working? (3) Are all the nozzles the same type? There is a significant variance in water applied between rotary sprinklers and spray heads.
- Set a timer and/or use a rain gauge when watering the lawn or garden.
- Check outdoor faucets, sprinklers and hoses for leaks. Replace washers as required.
Select plants that are drought tolerant and have low water needs. Group plants with similar water requirements in the same zone. For a listing see
<http://www.ecoterrallandscape.com/cgi-bin/ViewTopic.pl?Topic=00-061506dt>
- Use a rain barrel. For instructions to build one: <http://www.walterreeves.com/how-to-archive/how-to-build-a-rain-barrel/>
- Save water and use it wisely. Don't water the lawn on windy days. Water plants, if required, applying one inch of water per week. **Observe current Georgia watering restrictions.**

Check with your local water system to determine if they have more restrictive regulations.

Environment

- Non-native invasive plants are a problem in Georgia and the Southeast. It is not only kudzu, Chinese privet, and golden bamboo. Become aware of the exotic pest plants and what you can do to inhibit them. Go to http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/fia/manual/Nonnative_Invasive_Plants_of_Southern_Forests.pdf
- Protect the environment, watersheds and sewer system by the proper disposal of grease, hazardous household products and pesticides. Go to http://cobbcounty.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2325&Itemid=1323

Other

- Watch for fire ant mounds See <http://www.walterreeves.com/insects-and-animals/fire-ants-best-control-in-fall/>
- Watch for poison ivy. See <http://www.walterreeves.com/landscaping/poison-ivy-control/>
- Spray new growth of unwanted kudzu, ivy and bamboo.
- Eliminate mosquito breeding places.
- Furnish water for birds. Change the water every three days to control mosquito breeding.
- Fertilize indoor plants moved to out of doors.
- Take root cuttings of non-woody house plants.
- To help reduce soil borne insects, disease organisms and weeds without pesticides, see “Solarization”
<http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn74145.html>
- Take precautions when working in hot weather. See “Working in Hot Conditions”
<http://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/fitness/in-depth/exercise/art-20048167?pg=2>
- Pesticide storage: label properly, store in locked cabinet.

- Properly dispose of pesticides. Read: <http://www.walterreeves.com/tools-and-chemicals/pesticides-disposing/>
- Keep a logbook of problems so they can be avoided next year. Analyze your landscape. Consider implementing water efficient principles to conserve water.
- Information on forest pests is available from the USDA Forest Service www.forestpests.org/southern/
- A listing of UGA publications
<http://www.walterreeves.com/landscaping/uga-downloadable-plant-list-publications/>
- Learn about the plant nutrients found in soil and air and how they are utilized by plants.
<http://www.ncagr.gov/cyber/kidswrld/plant/nutrient.htm>

For a soil test, bring 2 cups of dry soil to the Extension Office. Cost is \$9.00 per sample, payable by cash, check or credit card.

Specific instructions on fertilizing, pest and disease control and pruning are available from the Extension Office. Call us at 770 528-4070 or see our website <http://www.ugaextension.org/cobb>



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