

Note that the information in our monthly tips is intended for gardening in the Bountiful, UT area and may not be accurate for different climates.

July Gardening

Ave High 93° F.
Ave Low 62° F.
Ave Moisture .72"

Each year is different, let the weather be your guide. Use this gardening guide as a simple reminder as to what needs to be done in your garden this month.

It's time to sit back and enjoy the garden. Take time to enjoy the fruits of your earlier gardening efforts. Apricots and cherries will start to ripen.



July is usually one of the hottest months weather-wise, and a time when 'just a little' needs to be done to keep the garden in tip-top shape.

Watering is the major concern because of the hot weather this month. And, if you're looking for things to do, you can spend some time on cultivating; adding summer plants to the garden, controlling lawn insects, and planting a few fall and winter vegetables.

Lawn



✓ Continue to water deeply. Water early in the morning before the heat of the day, or early in the evening. Do not water your lawn every day.

✓ Your lawn should receive 2" of water per week, 1/2" each time you water. Set out tuna cans in several areas of the lawn. Turn on the sprinklers. When you have 1/2" of water in most cans, turn off the sprinklers. Did you get the same amount of water in each can? If not, a sprinkler system inspection may be necessary.

✓ Avoid fertilizing the lawn in hot, dry weather. Apply humic acid or iron during hot weather if your lawn needs a little something to make it look better.

✓ Contrary to popular belief, a brown lawn isn't necessarily a dead lawn. Grasses go dormant in times of heat and drought, but will quickly return to life with the fall weather.

✓ You can aerate your lawn anytime of the year, including July. Aerating helps water penetrate deeper into the soil, helping roots grow better.

✓ If you haven't already done so, raise the mower up a notch or two. Hot weather makes the grass go through summer dormancy. Mowing the lawn at a taller height helps to conserve moisture at ground level, and will help to keep the crowns or the grass from scorching. Mow Kentucky bluegrass 2 1/2 to 3 inches long.

✓ Do not spray broadleaf weed killers when the temperature will get above 90 degrees within the next 24 hours. The weed killer may volatilize and drift on to neighboring plants. Tomatoes and grapes are especially sensitive to weed killer damage.



✓ Be on the lookout for summer diseases such as brown patch, fairy ring, necrotic ringspot. Apply **F-Stop** fungicide early in July if your lawn has had a disease in the past. Many lawn diseases are hard to control, and will take several years to get rid of. Be persistent. You may need to over-seed your lawn in the fall with a more disease resistant variety of grass seed. Read our **Lawn Disease Handout** for more information about preventing and curing lawn diseases.



✓ Watch for lawn grubs and billbugs. As they begin to hatch, an insecticide may be required. Apply **Insect & Grub Control** in late July or early August.

✓ Keep mower blades sharpened. Replace the lawn mower's air filter and change the oil per owner's manual.

Trees and Shrubs

✓ Water newly planted trees and shrubs with a hose once a week. Be sure to soak them thoroughly and do not rely on sprinklers or drip irrigation systems to keep them watered properly the first year.



✓ Water older tree and shrubs once a month with a hose. Turn the hose on very slow trickle, and let the water soak deeply into the root system.

✓ Summer blooming shrubs should be pruned for size and shape after they have finished flowering. Remove any dead or diseased branches, then shape the plant as needed.

Flowers

✓ Deadhead flowers and roses to encourage continued blooming. Shear back annuals that have become overgrown. They will soon regain a more compact appearance, and will resume good flower production. They really don't mind a mid-summer haircut.

✓ Don't be afraid to give your flowers a summer haircut. You can get a second and third bloom from faded annuals by cutting them back by one half their height, and fertilizing them with Fertilome Blooming and Rooting fertilizer weekly for 3 or 4 weeks in a row.

✓ Bearded or German iris can be divided and replanted later this month.

✓ Continue to fertilize annuals, perennials, roses, and vegetables every 6 to 8 weeks until mid-August.



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√ Fertilize and water container gardens regularly. Plants grown in pots need more attention than plants growing in the garden.



√ Keep watering your garden plants to help them through the heat and dryness; if you're going on as vacation, ask a friend or neighbor to water your garden and container plants.

√ Fertilize container gardens regularly with **Blooming and Rooting Fertilizer** to keep them blooming their best.

√ Chrysanthemums should be lightly fertilized every two weeks. Discontinue pinching your mums in mid month so they will be able to develop flower buds for the fall. To promote 'trophy size' flowers, allow only one or two main shoots to develop. Remove all side buds as they begin to develop.

√ Continue to watch for insect or disease damage throughout the garden, and take the necessary steps to control the problem.

√ Remove faded flowers from annuals to stimulate more flowers for late summer color, and from perennials to prevent reseeding.

√ Keep gardens well mulched.

√ Cut fresh bouquets for inside color on hot summer days.

√ Lightly fertilize annuals to promote growth. Blooming and Rooting fertilizer will stimulate more blossoms.

√ To produce the largest Dahlia flowers (especially 'Dinner plate' Dahlias), the main stems should be kept free of side shoots. Only let the main terminal bud to develop. Be sure to provide adequate support to prevent wind damage.

√ Pansies and sweet peas may start to fizzle out during the hot summer weather. A little mid-day shade will help to maintain the quality of the flowers and prolong the blooming season. Otherwise, remove them and replant them later in the fall.

√ Plant seeds of Hollyhocks, English daisies, Foxgloves, Violas, Canterbury bells, and Sweet William into the garden now. These plants will grow this year and then bloom next year.

√ Some perennials do not look their best until July. This includes lilies, coreopsis, and most daisy-like plants such as coneflower, goldenrod, and shasta daisies. Hardy geraniums, many salvias, and scabiosa are repeat bloomers that will keep blooming for a long while. The mallow family

plants (hollyhock, hibiscus) are just starting to bloom as well.

Roses

√ Roses need to be fertilized every 6 to 8 weeks all through the summer. Deadhead plants to promote repeat blooming. Aphids, spidermites, and thrips are common insects on roses to watch for.



√ Powdery mildew and black spot are diseases that need to be prevented.

Vegetables & Fruit

√ Enjoy the harvest, you deserve it.



√ Harvest vegetables regularly. As crops start to finish producing, send those plants to the compost pile. Plant new seeds and new plants for your Fall vegetable garden.

√ Plant your Broccoli, Brussels sprouts, Cabbage, and Cauliflower seeds inside now. Transplant them outside in August for winter harvest.

√ Fertilize June bearing strawberries after the harvest, and everbearing varieties half way through the season. Depending on the weather, you can often harvest strawberries through October.

√ Plant out successions of salad crops for continued harvesting throughout the summer. Sow seeds for cool-season crops directly into the garden by mid-July. We have a list of vegetables that you can plant in the fall, please ask for a copy.

√ Continue to protect your fruit from the birds with netting. If you have Quail, make sure you tie down the netting securely.

√ Empty areas of the garden, where the crops have finished, can be replanted with either a fall vegetable crop, or with a cover crop. Cover crops can be tilled into the soil next spring, to add humus and fertilizer to the soil.

√ Prepare the garden for fall gardening. Plant Beets, Broccoli, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Green Onions, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Parsnips, Peas, Radishes, Summer Squash (risky), Spinach, Swiss Chard, Sweet Corn (risky), Turnips. Check the planting schedule to know when the best time is to plant fall vegetables.

√ Spray or dust sweet corn to control corn earworms as the silk emerges.



√ Control weed growth to preserve

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water and nutrients. Continue fertilizing vegetables to encourage plant development.

√ Be on the lookout for pests of the garden and control them as needed.

√ Watch for foliar diseases on the lower tomato leaves and treat with a fungicide if necessary.

√ Remove old raspberry canes as soon after harvest as possible to prevent insect and disease problems from spreading.

√ Spray cherries when the fruit starts to change from yellow to pink (usually early-July). Use spinosad or fruit tree spray for best results.

√ Keep up the codling moth controls on apples and pears until September.

√ Spray apricot, peach, nectarine, almond, cherry, and plum trees for peach tree borer. Repeat applications every month through September. Spray the lower limbs and trunk.

Houseplants

√ House plants can be moved outside into a shady, protected spot.

√ Continue to watch them for insect or disease damage, and take the necessary steps to control the problem.



√ Warmer and drier weather means it will be necessary to water and mist your house plants more often.

√ Fertilize houseplants every two or three weeks during the summer.

Miscellaneous

√ The amount of water that your garden will need depends on the weather conditions. Water thoroughly and deeply each time you need to water. Do not water every day, and do not keep the soil soggy wet. Allow the soil dry out between waterings.

√ Deep watering will allow the plant's roots to grow deeper in to the soil, where they are less likely to dry out. They will have the added benefit of anchoring the plant into the soil better. Shallow, surface watering actually wastes water, because the water never actually reaches the root zone of the plant, and, the moisture rapidly evaporates from the top inch of soil.

√ The best way to tell if your plants are receiving enough water is to take a shovel and dig down a few inches. The soil should



be moist at least 3 or 4 inches deep to insure that the water is reaching the root zone of the plants.

√ Your container plants may need daily watering, especially if the pots are exposed to hot winds or the drying sunlight. Push your finger into the soil of your container plantings at least once a day (more often on hot, dry days) to feel for moisture and be certain that plants are getting enough water. Apply water until it runs out the drainage holes.

√ If your containers dry out too severely, the soil may shrink away from the sides of the pot. Then, when you water, all the water just runs out of the side of the pot, without having a chance to soak into the soil. If this happens, it is a good idea to set your dry containers in a bucket of water for an hour or two, so they can absorb enough water to completely saturate the soil. You can soak them in a bucket of water anytime they wilt severely. Don't overwater them, just soak them long enough so the soil stays uniformly moist.

√ Try to do your watering during the morning hours so that the leaves can dry off before the hot sun hits them. Watering at night is acceptable if the temperatures are warm enough to insure that the foliage dries before the temperature drops at night. (Wet foliage at night makes plants more susceptible to diseases.)

√ Continue to apply mulch, as needed. It helps keep roots cool and moist. It also helps prevent the pesky weeds.

√ Keep an eye out for slugs and snails. They hide during the heat of the day, but they will come out of hiding in the cool of the morning, in the evening hours, or after a rainstorm. Seek and destroy ALL snail and slugs - and their eggs. Trap and kill snails by setting out small saucers or partially buried tuna cans filled with beer or grape juice around plants in the garden. This will attract slugs, who will climb in and drown. Use can also use **Sluggo** bait to attract and kill the snails and slugs. This bait will kill snails and will not harm pets.

√ If you haven't already done so, consider using organic fertilizers, organic pesticides or disease controls.

√ Pull weeds right after watering, its a lot easier. Keep the weeds pulled, before they have a chance to flower and go to seed. Otherwise, you will be fighting newly germinated weed seeds for the next several years from that one plant.



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√ Don't forget to water your trees and shrubs; they need consistent moisture to weather the heat. This is especially important for any new trees and shrubs you have just planted this season.

√ A general rule is to deep water older trees and shrubs once a month, in addition to the normal water they receive. Turn a hose on very slowly and let it dribble around each plant for several hours. Do not just let the water run off, or it is just a waste of water.

√ Remove weeds before they set seed; don't forget to look under plants for stray weeds you might have missed.

√ Buy a new gardening hat to protect your face from the harmful UV rays while you are out enjoying your garden.

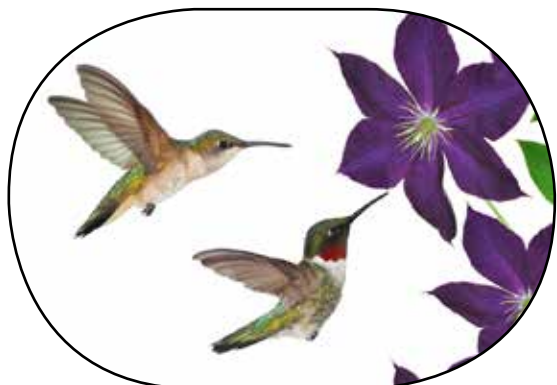
Wild Bird

√ Continue to change hummingbird feeder solution and clean the feeders at least every other day.



√ Making your own homemade hummingbird food is easy to do. All you need is ordinary white granulated table sugar and tap water. **Don't add anything else to the nectar recipe.**

√ In a pan on your stove, add 1 part sugar to 4 parts water stir in the sugar until it is completely dissolved, while bringing the hummingbird food mixture to a boil. Boil the nectar for about 2 minutes then remove from the heat to cool when your homemade hummingbird food is cool you can add it to your feeder.



√ Boiling the hummingbird mixture for about 2 minutes will release the chlorine from the water and kill any mold spores that might be in the sugar. This will prevent the nectar from fermenting as quickly and make it last longer in your feeder before needing changed.

√ Change the water in your bird bath regularly, and keep it filled. Standing water may become a breeding ground for mosquito larvae.

