



Dear *Extension's Successful Gardener* E-tips Subscriber:

As we send you this month's tips, we pay tribute to Lady Bird Johnson for her dedication to the environment and the beautification of America. One of her quotes:

“Beauty in nature nourishes us and brings joy to the human spirit.
It also is one of the deep needs of people everywhere.”

www.wildflower.org

July Gardening Tips

Ornamentals

- July is the ideal time to divide and transplant daylilies and irises. Do so after they finish blooming and divide every couple of years to keep the plants healthy. It's a great way to share plants with friends and to establish new beds without having to purchase live goods from the store. After digging a mass of irises, pull apart rhizomes and discard any with borer holes or decay. Replant large rhizomes with at least one nice leaf fan. Keep the new plants watered for a while. When dividing daylilies, dig up the entire clump, cut into sections with a shovel or large knife and replant right away.
- Bagworms are feeding on landscape plants. They eventually form a protective bag around themselves that is impenetrable by insecticides. It is important to scout landscape plants such as Japanese maple, Leyland cypress and junipers now before the bag is completed and apply an insecticide that is labeled for bagworms. Bags may also be picked off and burned later in the season if pesticides are not an option.
- Prune bleeder trees such as maple, dogwood, birch and elm this month.

- Prune off spent crape myrtle blossoms to prolong the flowering period. This works best on smaller plants where it's easier to reach the flowers from the ground.
- Hot, dry weather favors powdery mildew. It is typically not fatal to woody ornamentals but can make them look bad. To control, spray every 7 to 14 days as soon as you notice the disease. Bayleton and Daconil have activity against powdery mildew.
- Spider mites are another problem during hot and dry weather. Horticultural oil or insecticidal soap will reduce their numbers.
- In July and August, start seeds indoors for cool-weather annuals for fall planting. Try foxglove, pansy, alyssum, snapdragons, ornamental cabbage (kale) and prim roses. Pansy seeds germinate well when stored in the refrigerator (not freezer) for 10 to 14 days before planting.

Lawns

- Remember to change directions when mowing the lawn. Go east to west one mowing and then switch to north to south on the next cutting.
- Do not fertilize cool-season lawns until September.

Edibles

- Start preparing the soil for fall vegetable gardens. Most spring crops are finished and should be pulled up and destroyed. Plant fall garden crops as early as the first of August through the first of September (these dates are for the Raleigh area and should be adjusted for your area of the state).
- In the mountains you can still plant a fall crop of bush beans, cucumbers and summer squash in July. Plant cool-weather greens in July or August.
- In July and August, start seeds indoors for cool-weather vegetables to plant this fall. Try collards, spinach, cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower.
- Soon after tomatoes begin to set fruit, give them a boost of fertilizer to keep them vigorous and productive. Most of the new varieties are heavy producers if provided with good nutrition and adequate soil moisture.
- Prune blackberries and raspberries after harvest.

Helpful Resources

- Subscribe to *Extension's Successful Gardener* award-winning newsletter, which is published 10 months per year. Visit www.successfulgardener.org for information.
- North Carolina Cooperative Extension in Forsyth County has recently published a new color brochure on recommended tree varieties for the piedmont region. "Planting for Our Future" is free by calling (336) 703-2850 or by e-mailing dorothy_stobbs@ncsu.edu. Please mention that you read about this brochure in *Extension's Successful Gardener* e-tips. This new brochure will provide ideas for trees to plant this fall. The project was funded by a grant to the Treasure Tree program of Forsyth County.

North Carolina Cooperative Extension

- Learn about educational programs near you. Visit www.ces.ncsu.edu.

Until next month, Happy Successful Gardening!

