

Ask an Expert – How Does Your Garden Grow? Tips for July

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It can be a challenge to keep gardens growing as temperatures heat up, so Utah State University Extension provides a Gardener's Almanac to help. The Almanac includes links to tips and additional information.

- Start enjoying the [tomato](#) harvest.
- Fertilize [potatoes](#) with nitrogen in early July.
- Harvest [summer squash](#) and zucchini while they are still small and tender.
- [Deep water](#) established trees and shrubs about once a month during the heat of summer.
- Deadhead (cut off) spent blossoms of perennial and annual flowers.
- Divide crowded iris or daylilies once they have finished blooming.
- Visit alpine areas for [wildflower](#) displays.
- Remove water sprouts (vertical shoots in the canopy) on [fruit trees](#) to discourage regrowth.
- Renovate [perennial strawberry](#) beds by tearing out old crowns (mother plants) and applying fertilizer to stimulate new runners.
- Remember that turfgrass only needs 1½ to 2 inches of water per week. Learn about [irrigation needs in your area](#).

Pests and Problems:

- Check under leaves of pumpkins, melons, and squash plants for [squash bugs](#).

- Watch for mosaic virus in vine crops, such as [cucumbers](#) and [watermelons](#), and remove infected plants to reduce the virus from spreading.
- Watch for holes from tobacco budworm feeding in the leaves of petunias, nicotiana, geraniums, and other annual flowers.
- Protect black locust trees (not honey locust) with a registered chemical to prevent [locust borer](#) damage.
- Control [codling moth](#) in apples and pears to reduce wormy fruit. For specific timing, see our [Utah Pests Advisories](#).
- Control [walnut husk fly](#) in walnuts, peaches, and apricots, typically around August 1st and 15th.
- Learn how to identify a [hobo spider](#).
- Control [European paper wasps](#) with traps this time of year.
- Monitor for damaging [turfgrass insects](#).
- To see a video of the July Gardener's Almanac tips, [click here](#).
- Consider taking an [online gardening course](#). Courses cover topics such as container vegetable gardening, creating the perfect soil, planting trees, and controlling pests. Courses are geared to both beginning and professional gardeners.
- Explore more gardening tips on Extension's [yard and garden website](#).

Contact

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