It has been said that June is the gateway to summer. With that comes many opportunities to be out in the yard and garden. Utah State University Extension’s Gardener’s Almanac provides a checklist of tasks for June as well as links for tips and further information.

Tasks:

- Harvesting of asparagus spears should stop in early June to allow the fronds to form for the rest of the growing season.

- Prune tomatoes to open the canopy of the plant.

- Consider drip irrigation in the garden to conserve water.

- Consider planting sweet corn in the garden every other week (until early July) to extend the harvest.

- Prune spring flowering shrubs (those that bloom before June) after they have bloomed to encourage new flower buds for next season.

- Deadhead (cut off) spent blossoms of perennial and annual flowers.

- Thin the fruit of apples, peaches and apricots to approximately one fruit in every 5-6 inches.

- Apply a second application of pre-emergent herbicides in early June to control annual weeds in the lawn such as crabgrass and spurge.

- Turfgrass only needs 1-1 ½ inches of irrigation per week. Click here for irrigation needs in your area.

Pests and Problems:

- Monitor vegetables and herbs for earwig damage.

- Protect ash trees with a registered chemical to prevent lilac/ash borer damage.

- Control Codling moth in apples and pears to reduce wormy fruit. For specific timing, see the Utah Pests Advisories.

- Treat for powdery mildew on apples when leaves are emerging (at 1/2 inch green) until June.

- Watch for insect pests in raspberries from mid-May thru early June. For specific timing, see the Utah Pests Advisories.

- Control the Western cherry fruit fly when fruit changes color from straw color to pink to avoid maggots in cherries.

- Control the Peach twig borer in peaches, nectarines and apricot trees. For specific timing see the Utah Pests Advisories.

- Monitor for damaging turfgrass insects. In areas previously damaged, consider a preventative (systemic) insecticide.

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