

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

JayDee Gunnell

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

## July Checklist

- Start enjoying the [tomato](#) harvest.
- Fertilize [potatoes in the garden](#) with nitrogen in early July.
- Harvest [summer squash](#) and zucchini when they are still small and tender.
- [Deep water](#) established trees and shrubs about once per 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.
- Remove water sprouts (vertical shoots in the canopy) of [fruit trees](#) to discourage regrowth and reduce shading.

- Renovate [perennial strawberry](#) beds by tearing out old crowns (mother plants) and applying fertilizer to stimulate new runners.
- Remember that turfgrass only needs 1 ½ to 2 inches of water per week. [See 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 spreading.
- Watch for holes in the leaves of petunias, nicotiana, geraniums and other annual flowers from Tobacco budworm feeding.
- 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.
- Plan for next month, as control for [walnut husk fly](#) in walnuts, peaches and apricots usually takes place August 1 and 15.
- Learn how to identify a [hobo spider](#).
- Control [European paper wasp](#) with traps.
- Monitor for damaging [turfgrass insects](#).
- [Click here](#) to subscribe to the Utah Pests IPM Advisories for timely tips on controlling pests in your yard and garden.
- 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. Use the code “**GARDEN5**” at checkout to get \$5 off.
- Explore more gardening tips on Extension's [yard and garden website](#). For drought information and tips, [click here](#).
- To see a video of the July Gardener's Almanac tips, [click here](#).

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## Contact

**JayDee Gunnell**

Jaydee.gunnell@usu.edu

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