

ASK AN EXPERT – How Does Your Garden Grow? Tips for July

07/02/2019

How does your garden grow? It can be a challenge to keep it growing well as summer heats up. Utah State University Extension's Gardener's Almanac provides a checklist of tasks to help your garden, grass and plants grow well in July. Also included are links for tips and further information.



July Checklist

- Start enjoying the [tomato](#) harvest.
 - Side dress (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.
 - Visit alpine areas for [wildflower](#) displays.
 - Remove water sprouts (vertical shoots in the canopy) of [fruit trees](#) to discourage regrowth and to reduce shading.
 - Renovate [perennial strawberry](#) beds by tearing out old crowns (mother plants) and applying fertilizer to stimulate new runners.
- Turfgrass only needs 1 ½ to 2 inches of irrigation per week. [Click here](#) to learn about irrigation needs in your area.
- ### Pests and Problems
- If tomatoes are not producing, it could be due to hot weather (95°F and above), which causes flower abortion.
 - [Blossom end rot](#) (black sunken areas on the end of tomatoes) is common and is caused by uneven watering.
 - Check under leaves of pumpkins, melons and squash plants for [squash bugs](#).
 - Treat corn for [corn earworm](#).
 - [Spider mites](#) prefer dry, hot weather and affect many plants. Treat for spider mites by using “softer” solutions such as spraying them with a hard stream of water or by using an insecticidal soap. Spider mites can be identified by shaking leaves over a white piece of paper. If the small specs move, you have mites.
 - Control [codling moth](#) in apples and pears to reduce wormy fruit. For specific timing, see our [Utah Pests Advisories](#).
 - Historically, control of the [greater peach tree borer](#) in peaches, nectarines and apricots occurs the first of July. However, for specific timing, see our [Utah Pests Advisories](#).
 - [Click here](#) for instructions on how to submit a sample to the Utah Plant Pest Diagnostic Lab.
 - Watch for symptoms of [turfgrass diseases](#).
 - Monitor for damaging [turfgrass insects](#).
- To see a video on the July Gardener's Almanac tips, [click here](#).