

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

JayDee Gunnell

07/01/2021



It can be a challenge to keep gardens growing well as summer heats up, so Utah State University Extension provides a Gardener's Almanac to help. The almanac provides a checklist of tasks with tips, links 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.
- 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.

## 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 easily identified. Shake leaves over a white piece of paper, and 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](#).
- For drought information, [click here](#). For information from the Center for Water-Efficient Landscaping, [click here](#).
- To see a video of the July Gardener's Almanac tips, [click here](#). To learn more gardening tips and tricks, [click here](#).

*By: JayDee Gunnell, Utah State University Extension horticulturist, [Jaydee.gunnell@usu.edu](mailto:Jaydee.gunnell@usu.edu)*