

# June

## Yard, Garden & Plant Tips

### Shrubs and trees

- This is a good month for shearing, pinching or pruning Junipers, Cypress or Conifers. If you've been cultivating a special Christmas tree, sculpt it now.
- Dead head the developing seedpods from your Rhododendrons and Azaleas to improve next years bloom. Be careful not to damage next year's buds, which may be hidden just below the pod.
- Time to trim your hedges!

### Perennials, annuals and bulbs

- Pinch back any annuals, Fuchsias, Geraniums, Cosmos or any other plants that might be getting a little leggy.
- Pinch your Chrysanthemum's to encourage them to be bushier and have more blossoms. Pinch them again, every 6 inches or so, as they grow. Do NOT pinch after July 4<sup>th</sup>!
- Sow seeds for Flowering Kale and Flowering Cabbage for colorful plants next fall and winter

### Fruits and vegetables

- Tap your tomato plants to encourage pollination; water every day and start feeding them weekly once fruits set.
- After natural fruit drop in late June, thin fruits on apple, pear, peach, and apricot trees carefully to produce larger, better fruit. Peach trees need 50 to 75 leaves per fruit to manufacture food for both fruit production and tree maintenance. Apple trees need 30 to 40 leaves per fruit. Continue thinning your vegetable seedlings to provide ample room for growth.

### Lawn

- If the weather becomes hot and dry, raise the cutting height of the mower.
- Apply moss killers before temperatures reach 65 degrees.
- Fertilize the lawn this month. Use a complete lawn fertilizer with a 3-1-2 ratio of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium.

### Houseplants

- House plants can be moved outside to a shady, protected spot.
- Warmer and drier weather means it will be necessary to water and mist your houseplants more often.
- Feed your houseplants with ½ the recommended strength of a good soluble houseplant fertilizer.

### Odds and ends

- Change the water in your birdbath regularly. Standing water may become a breeding ground for mosquito larvae.
- At exactly 12:00 Noon, on June 15<sup>th</sup>, set your sundial for 12:00 to get the most accurate time reading throughout the summer.